




PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CORPORATION
ADELAIDE FESTIVAL 2025
26 FEBRUARY-16 MARCH 2025**

POST-EVENT REPORT

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



RESPONSIBLE ENTITY NAME	Adelaide Festival Corporation
NAME OF EVENT	Adelaide Festival 2025
EVENT DATE(S)	26 February to 16 March 2025
DECLARATION	<p><i>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.</i></p>  <p>Karishma Reynolds Chief Financial Officer 17 April 2026</p>



Australian Government
**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

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Version 9.

1. CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	7474 tCO ₂ -e
CARBON OFFSETS USED	100% VCUs
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	N/A
CARBON ACCOUNT	Prepared by: Tandem Energy
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	Next technical assessment due 2026
THIRD PARTY VALIDATION	N/A

Contents

1. Certification summary	3
2. Certification information	4
3. Emissions boundary	6
4. Emissions reductions	11
5. Emissions summary	13
6. Carbon offsets	15
7. Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) Summary	17
Appendix A: Additional Information	17
Appendix B: Electricity summary	18
Appendix C: Inside emissions boundary	21
Appendix D: Outside emissions boundary	22

2. CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

Description of certification

This certification is for the 2025 Adelaide Festival which was held from the 26th February to the 16th March 2025. The event had 97,834 ticketed attendances by 41,871 ticketed attendees, plus an additional estimated 118,245 attendances at free events, and was held at the following locations:

- **AC Arts**
Light Square, Adelaide
- **ACE Gallery**
Lion Arts Precinct, North Tce, Adelaide
- **Adelaide Entertainment Centre Theatre**
98 Port Road, Hindmarsh
- **Adelaide Festival Centre** (including Dunstan Playhouse, Festival Theatre, Space Theatre, and Festival Plaza)
Festival Drive, Adelaide
- **Adelaide Town Hall**
128 King William Street, Adelaide
- **Art Gallery of South Australia**
North Terrace, Adelaide
- **Bonney Theatre**
2 Barwell Avenue, Barmera
- **Elder Park**
King William Road, Adelaide
- **Grainger Studio**
91 Hindley Street, Adelaide
- **Her Majesty's Theatre**
58 Grote Street, Adelaide
- **Middleback Theatre**
141a Nicolson Ave, Whyalla Norrie
- **Odeon Theatre**
57A Queen Street, Norwood
- **Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden**
King William Road, Adelaide
- **Samstag Museum of Art**
Hawke Building, City West Campus, University of South Australia, North Terrace, Adelaide
- **Slingsby's Hall of Possibility**
Rear Hall, 96 Glen Osmond Road, Parkside
- **The Drill Hall**
Torrens Parade Grounds, Adelaide
- **The Engine Room**
58 View St, Bendigo

- **The Queens Theatre**
Playhouse Ln & Gilles Arcade, Adelaide
- **University of Adelaide Elder Hall**
North Terrace, Adelaide
- **UKARIA Cultural Centre**
119 Williams Road, Mount Barker Summit
- **Vitalstatistix**
Waterside Workers Hall, 11 Nile Street, Port Adelaide, Yartapuulti
- **The Wall Gallery, Carrick Hill**
46 Carrick Hill Dr, Springfield

Activity data collected from previous occurrences of this event has informed the preparation of this carbon inventory. This was a combination of actual (e.g. attendance at ticketed events) and modelled (e.g. meals consumed) data.

Event description

Founded in 1960, the Adelaide Festival is a major multi-arts festival held annually in South Australia, produced and presented by the Adelaide Festival Corporation ([Adelaide Festival](#)).

Planning and execution for each Festival is the core business of the Corporation, which operates continuously over the year. The carbon neutral certification includes all festival venues and events, and corporate emissions during the 2024/2025 financial year.

The Adelaide Festival has been certified as a Carbon Neutral Event under Climate Active since 2020 (see <https://www.climateactive.org.au/buy-climate-active/certified-members/adelaide-festival>).

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 event, 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 the event'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.

Inside emissions boundary

Quantified

Event preparation:

Accommodation and facilities

Construction Materials and Services

Electricity

Machinery and vehicles

Postage, Courier, and Freight

Transport – (air)

Transport – (land and sea)

Event:

Accommodation and facilities

Electricity

Food

Machinery and vehicles

Professional Services (taxis)

Stationary Energy (gaseous fuels)

Stationary Energy (liquid fuels)

Transport – (air)

Transport – (land and sea)

Waste

Water

Non-quantified

Event preparation:

ICT Services & Equipment

Merchandise (printed t-shirts and bags) (Products)

Professional Services (other)

Office equipment and supplies

Event:

Building HVAC Refrigerants

Cleaning and chemicals

Outside emission boundary

Excluded

Umbrella events - events that occur in conjunction with Adelaide Festival but are not run by the Adelaide Festival Corporation, in 2025 this includes WOMADelaide.

Data collection – changes since the pre-event report

Emissions source	Data collection method	Assumptions / conservative approach taken
Accommodation	<p>Source: 2025 Adelaide Festival Economic Evaluation Report, Travel agent reports, and internal AF data.</p> <p>Attendee accommodation was modelled based on attendee data and survey results as reported in the 2025 Adelaide Festival Economic Evaluation report.</p> <p>Staff and participant accommodation was modelled on the calculated (using actual data, nights and star rating) 2025 activity data from travel agent reports.</p>	<p>Attendee accommodation was modelled for out of state and South Australian regional attendees.</p> <p>Out of state attendee visitor nights were estimated from ticketed attendee numbers and survey data on length of stay. This number was modified by % reason for travel, % of attendees staying in paid accommodation, and an assumption of twin share accommodation.</p> <p>Regional attendee visitor nights were calculated from ticketed attendee numbers. This number was modified by % of attendees staying in paid accommodation and with the assumptions of one night accommodation per event attended, and twin share accommodation.</p> <p>Star ratings were used where known. Where unknown the Climate Active emission factor for “Accommodation-Australia” was used, which has an emissions factor between that of 4 and 5 star accommodation.</p>
Electricity	<p>Source: AF internal data on venue electricity usage, tenancy electricity bills and storage unit electricity bills.</p> <p>Actual Electricity data for AF2025 was limited, where data was missing 2024 was used to model usage.</p>	<p>Actual usage was obtained from 1 venue, 6 venues were estimated from 2024 average venue daily consumption data, and other venues were modelled and estimated based on area and hours of use using the Climate Active electricity calculator. 3 venues were owned and operated by the City of Adelaide and used 100% renewable energy.</p> <p>2025 Corporate Electricity for office space and storage unit was estimated from the calculated 2024 data, sourced from 12 months of electricity bills from 2023/2024.</p>
Food and drinks	<p>Source: 2025 Adelaide Festival Economic Evaluation Report and internal AF data.</p>	<p>Emissions were calculated using the Climate Active Events calculator v9.</p>

	<p>Attendee total spend on food and drink was taken from the 2025 Economic Evaluation Report (table 6). Many venues have neither food nor bar facilities. Of the remainder the majority have only bars and snack offerings.</p> <p>Corporate catering was calculated using 2025 actual data (detailing the number of meals and meal types provided at AF corporate events) from internal AF data.</p>	<p>Attendee spend was separated into food spend and drink spend based on 2020 survey data (62% drinks, 38% food). Spend data was then converted to meals/drinks using a sample of venue menus. To be conservative the lowest price from the menus was used and all meals were considered to be meat.</p> <p>Corporate data was modified to match the modelling in the Climate Active Events calculator for a definition of a “meal”.</p>
Transport (Air)	<p>Source: 2025 Adelaide Festival Economic Evaluation Report, Travel agent reports.</p> <p>Attendee Air travel was modelled based on attendee data and survey results as reported in the 2025 Adelaide Festival Economic Evaluation report.</p> <p>Corporate (staff and participant) air travel 2025 was calculated using actual data (flight distances and class) from travel agent reports.</p>	<p>Out-of-state attendee air travel was estimated from international and interstate ticketed attendee numbers. This number was modified by % reason for travel. Interstate attendees were assumed to have travelled from state capital airports. The international attendee origin of travel assumption was based on the statistics modeling in the Climate Active Events calculator.</p>
Transport (Land and Sea)	<p>Source: 2025 Adelaide Festival Economic Evaluation Report, 2024 Attendee travel survey, Travel agent reports, and internal AF data.</p> <p>Attendee land travel was modelled based on attendee data as reported in the 2025 Adelaide Festival Economic Evaluation report, 2024 attendee transport survey results and 2024 AF internal postcode data from ticket sales.</p> <p>Corporate land travel was estimated based on 2025 staff commute</p>	<p>Attendee land travel was estimated from a model to factor in South Australian ticketed attendee travel, ticketed visitor attendee travel, and free event attendee travel.</p> <p>South Australian ticketed attendee travel was calculated using postcode data from ticket purchases. It is assumed that postcode reports from ticket sales represent the location of the attendee, and travel distance was modelled on travel to Adelaide CBD even though some events were held elsewhere. Travel distance to Adelaide CBD over 50km was considered regional and it</p>

	<p>surveys, and AF internal data on vehicle hire (km travelled or petrol purchased). Where data was missing 2024 data was used to model.</p>	<p>was assumed all travel was done by car, 2 attendees per vehicle, return trip and 1.92 attendances per trip (as accounted for in accommodation emissions). Travel distance to Adelaide CBD under 50km was considered local and it was assumed attendees travelled by various modes of transport (based on 2024 survey data), 2 attendees per vehicle (car and taxi), return trip, and every attendance was counted as a separate trip.</p> <p>Ticketed visitor attendee travel assumed return travel from Adelaide airport to Adelaide CBD by taxi (as per modeling in the Climate Active Events calculator), travel to events from within the CBD (walking, bus, tram, and taxi), and travel to events from outside the CBD by various modes of transport (based on 2024 survey data, distances as per modeling in the Climate Active Events calculator), 2 attendees per vehicle (car and taxi), return trip, and every attendance was counted as a separate trip.</p> <p>Free event attendee travel to events was assumed to be by various modes of transport (based on 2024 survey data, and distances as per modeling in the Climate Active Events calculator), 2 attendees per vehicle (car and taxi), return trip, and every attendance was counted as a separate trip.</p>
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4. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Emissions reduction measures

Adelaide Festival Corporation employs a Sustainability Manager to oversee the delivery of its Environmental Action Plan which has a focus on emissions reduction. Adelaide Festival also has an internal Sustainability Committee which has encouraged a variety of environmental/emissions reduction activities in relation to their corporate office as well as for the event itself. Adelaide Festival aims to widely promote its carbon neutral certification with the aim of engaging its suppliers and venue owners/operators.

To reduce emissions for the 2025 Adelaide Festival numerous activities were undertaken which included the following:

Waste Management:

- Implement the three-bin system with waste contractors.
- Provide recycling and recovery services for stallholders at back of house.
- Ensure Australian Standard certified compostable catering products are used, along with organics recycling.
- Provide water refilling stations as an alternative to single-use plastic water bottles
- Reuse or recycle instead of disposing of large items like flags, banners, and signage.
- Set up Adelaide Festival Upcycling group to engage in reuse and recycling practices for production infrastructure, materials and equipment with other events and organisations.
- Implement opt-in only for artist packs to reduce production of unnecessary marketing collateral and materials.

Energy:

- Use the City of Adelaide electricity supply in the Park Lands and squares which is 100% renewable electricity.
- Use hybrid vehicles for artist pickup and staff transport.
- Provide bicycle parking on site.
- Provide information on alternatives to private car use to attendees.

Water Management:

- Use water efficient equipment including low flow taps and dual flush toilets.

Supply Chain:

- Source or encourage local, seasonal, and/or organic choices for food vendors and for artist welcome packs.

Other:

- Promote sustainable choices to attendees before and at the event/festival, including travel, bottle re-fills, and how to use green bins.
- Provided an educational workshop to Adelaide Festival venues on carbon reporting, improving resource recovery and waste management.

5. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Significant changes in emissions – pre-event vs post-event

Emission source	Pre-event emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	Post-event emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	Reason for change
Accommodation: Australia	628.84	997.84	Pre-event estimates were based on 2024 attendee numbers. Actual 2025 attendances were significantly higher than 2024, affecting the modelling and estimates for this emissions source.
Long economy class flights (>3,700km)	1720.78	1350.76	Pre-event estimates were based on 2024 attendee numbers. Actual 2025 attendances were significantly higher than 2024, affecting the modelling and estimates for this emissions source.
Short economy class flights (>400km, ≤3,700km)	2447.15	3687.93	Pre-event estimates were based on 2024 attendee numbers. Actual 2025 attendances were significantly higher than 2024, affecting the modelling and estimates for this emissions source.

Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products, services, buildings or precincts

N/A.

Emissions summary

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

Emission category	Pre-event	Post-event			Sum of total emissions (t CO ₂ -e)
	Total emissions (t CO ₂ -e)	Sum of scope 1 (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of scope 2 (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of scope 3 (tCO ₂ -e)	
Accommodation and facilities	730.62	0.00	0.00	1065.74	1065.74
Construction materials and services	132.67	0.00	0.00	14.86	14.86
Electricity	141.69	0.00	10.39	126.71	137.10
Food	177.84	0.00	0.00	210.03	210.03
Machinery and vehicles	1.39	0.00	0.00	1.39	1.39
Office equipment and supplies	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Postage, courier and freight	63.91	0.00	0.00	18.13	18.13
Professional services	23.78	0.00	0.00	12.07	12.07
Stationary energy (gaseous fuels)	15.09	11.56	0.00	2.40	13.96
Stationary energy (liquid fuels)	5.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transport (air)	4512.75	0.00	0.00	5377.71	5377.71
Transport (land and sea)	415.67	6.26	0.00	474.52	480.78
Waste	40.56	0.00	0.00	36.44	36.44
Water	5.68	0.00	0.00	6.57	6.57
Total pre-event emissions (tCO₂-e)	6266.87				
Total post-event emissions (tCO₂-e)		17.81	10.39	7346.56	7374.76
Difference between pre-event and post-event emissions			1107.89 tCO₂-e		

Uplift factors

An uplift factor is an upwards adjustment to the total carbon inventory to account for relevant emissions, which can't be reasonably quantified or estimated. This conservative accounting approach helps ensure the integrity of the carbon neutral claim.

Reason for uplift factor	tCO ₂ -e
Uplift to account for non-quantified sources where data collection is not cost effective	98.5
Total of all uplift factors (tCO ₂ -e)	98.5
Total emissions footprint to offset (tCO₂-e) <i>(total post-event emissions from summary table + total of all uplift factors)</i>	7473.26

6. CARBON OFFSETS

Eligible offsets retirement summary

Offsets retired for Climate Active certification

Type of offset unit	Quantity used for this reporting period	Percentage of total units used
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	7474	100.00%

Project name	Type of offset unit	Registry	Date retired	Serial number	Vintage	Total quantity retired	Quantity used in previous reporting periods	Quantity banked for future reporting periods	Quantity used for this reporting period	Percentage of total used this reporting period
Hebei Yuxian Kongzhongcaoyuan 49.5MW Wind Farm Project	VCU	Verra Registry	12/03/2025	13454-504718701-504725066-VCS-VCU-279-VER-CN-1-413-01012017-31122017-0	2017	6366	0	0	6366	85.18%
Hebei Yuxian Kongzhongcaoyuan 49.5MW Wind Farm Project	VCU	Verra Registry	25/07/2025	13454-504731067-504732174-VCS-VCU-279-VER-CN-1-413-01012017-31122017-0	2017	1108	0	0	1108	14.82%

Co-benefits

N/A.

7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

N/A.

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A.

APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

There are two international best-practice methods for calculating electricity emissions – the location-based method and the market-based method. Reporting electricity emissions under both methods is called dual reporting.

Dual reporting of electricity emissions is useful, as it provides different perspectives of the emissions associated with a business's electricity usage.

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.

For this certification, electricity emissions have been set by using the **location-based approach**.

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	0	0	0%
Total non-grid electricity	0	0	0%
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs)	0	0	0%
GreenPower	0	0	0%
Climate Active precinct/building (voluntary renewables)	0	0	0%
Precinct/Building (LRET)	0	0	0%
Precinct/Building jurisdictional renewables (LGCS surrendered)	0	0	0%
Electricity products (voluntary renewables)	0	0	0%
Electricity products (LRET)	0	0	0%
Electricity products jurisdictional renewables (LGCs surrendered)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LGCs surrendered)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LRET) (applied to ACT grid electricity)	0	0	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	76,775	0	18%
Residual Electricity	338,675	308,195	0%
Total renewable electricity (grid + non grid)	76,775	0	18%
Total grid electricity	415,451	308,195	18%
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	415,451	308,195	18%
Percentage of residual electricity consumption under operational control	10%		
Residual electricity consumption under operational control	33,868	30,819	
Scope 2	30,146	27,433	
Scope 3 (includes T&D emissions from consumption under operational control)	3,722	3,387	
Residual electricity consumption not under operational control	304,808	277,375	
Scope 3	304,808	277,375	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	18.48%
Mandatory	18.48%
Voluntary	0.00%
Behind the meter	0.00%
Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO₂-e)	27.43
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO₂-e)	280.76
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO₂-e)	27.43
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO₂-e)	280.76
Total emissions liability (t CO₂-e)	308.19

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

Location-based approach summary						
Location-based approach	Activity Data (kWh) total	Under operational control			Not under operational control	
Percentage of grid electricity consumption under operational control	10%	(kWh)	Scope 2 Emissions (kg CO ₂ -e)	Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO ₂ -e)	(kWh)	Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO ₂ -e)
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	415,451	41,545	10,386	3,324	373,906	123,389
VIC	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	0	0	0	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	415,451	41,545	10,386	3,324	373,906	123,389
ACT	0	0	0	0		
NSW	0	0	0	0		
SA	0	0	0	0		
VIC	0	0	0	0		
QLD	0	0	0	0		
NT	0	0	0	0		
WA	0	0	0	0		
TAS	0	0	0	0		
Non-grid electricity (behind the meter)	0	0	0	0		
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	415,451					

Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO₂-e)	10.39
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO₂-e)	126.71
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO₂-e)	10.39
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO₂-e)	126.71
Total emissions liability	137.10

APPENDIX C: INSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Non-quantified emission sources

The following emissions sources 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.

Relevant non-quantified emission sources	Justification reason
Corporate HVAC Refrigerants	Not cost effective
Cleaning and chemicals	Not cost effective
ICT Services & Equipment	Not cost effective
Merchandise (printed t-shirts and bags) (Products)	Not cost effective
Professional Services (other)	Not cost effective
Office equipment and supplies	Not cost effective

APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Excluded emission sources

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 event's electricity.
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 event's greenhouse gas risk exposure.
4. **Stakeholders** The emissions from a particular source are deemed relevant by key stakeholders.
5. **Outsourcing** The emissions are from outsourced activities that were previously undertaken within the event's boundary or from outsourced activities that are typically undertaken within the boundary for comparable events.

Excluded emissions sources summary

Emission sources tested for relevance	Size	Influence	Risk	Stakeholders	Outsourcing	Justification
Umbrella events - events that occur in conjunction with Adelaide Festival but are not run by the Adelaide Festival Corporation, in 2024 this includes WOMADelaide.	Y	N	N	N	N	<p>Size: The emissions from the Womadelaide four-day event have not been calculated as part of this process, however are possibly large relative to the Adelaide Festival's electricity emissions. Womadelaide itself does have an informal offset program and a very strong focus on sustainability.</p> <p>Influence: We do not have the potential to influence the emissions from this source, as we merely cross-promote it in a festival year, and it is run by a completely separate entity.</p> <p>Risk: There are no relevant laws or regulations that apply to limit emissions specifically from this source.</p> <p>Stakeholders: Key stakeholders, including the public, are unlikely to consider this a relevant source of emissions for our business.</p> <p>Outsourcing: We have not previously undertaken this activity within our emissions boundary.</p>



An Australian Government Initiative

