



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**SUZANNE RIDDING TRADING AS
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS CONSULTANTS**

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
2019/20**

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: Suzanne Ridding trading as Sustainable Business Consultants

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 July 2019 – 30 June 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Ridding".

Date: 5 March 2020

Name of Signatory Suzanne Ridding

Position of Signatory: Sustainability Consultant



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

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1. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

This certification is for the Australian business operations of Suzanne Ridding trading as Sustainable Business Consultants, ABN 22 939 593 644. The carbon emissions sources included in this organisation certification are essentially the same as for our service.

Organisation description

Suzanne Ridding trading as Sustainable Business Consultants (SBC) provides expert sustainability services to a wide range of clients across Australia who seek to enhance their environmental, social and/or governance (ESG) credentials.

We have been operating for well over a decade and provide specialist advice in sustainability policy, strategy and planning; carbon accounting; emissions reduction and carbon offsetting; climate change risk and opportunity identification and analysis; climate adaptation strategy; corporate social responsibility and responsible investment.

SBC is proud to have assisted, and continues to assist, many organisations to achieve and retain carbon neutral certification. We are also a founding partner of Carbon Neutral Adelaide (a partnership between the South Australian Government and The City of Adelaide). We support organisations within that network to become certified carbon neutral and/or work on other aspects of their sustainability.

Through actions taken as part of this certification, SBC will be carbon negative – in other words the carbon emissions from our operations are exceeded by our emissions offsetting.

The operational boundary of our carbon inventory includes Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions including our office energy use, business travel and relevant purchases, in accordance with Climate Active's standard small organisation boundary and scope.

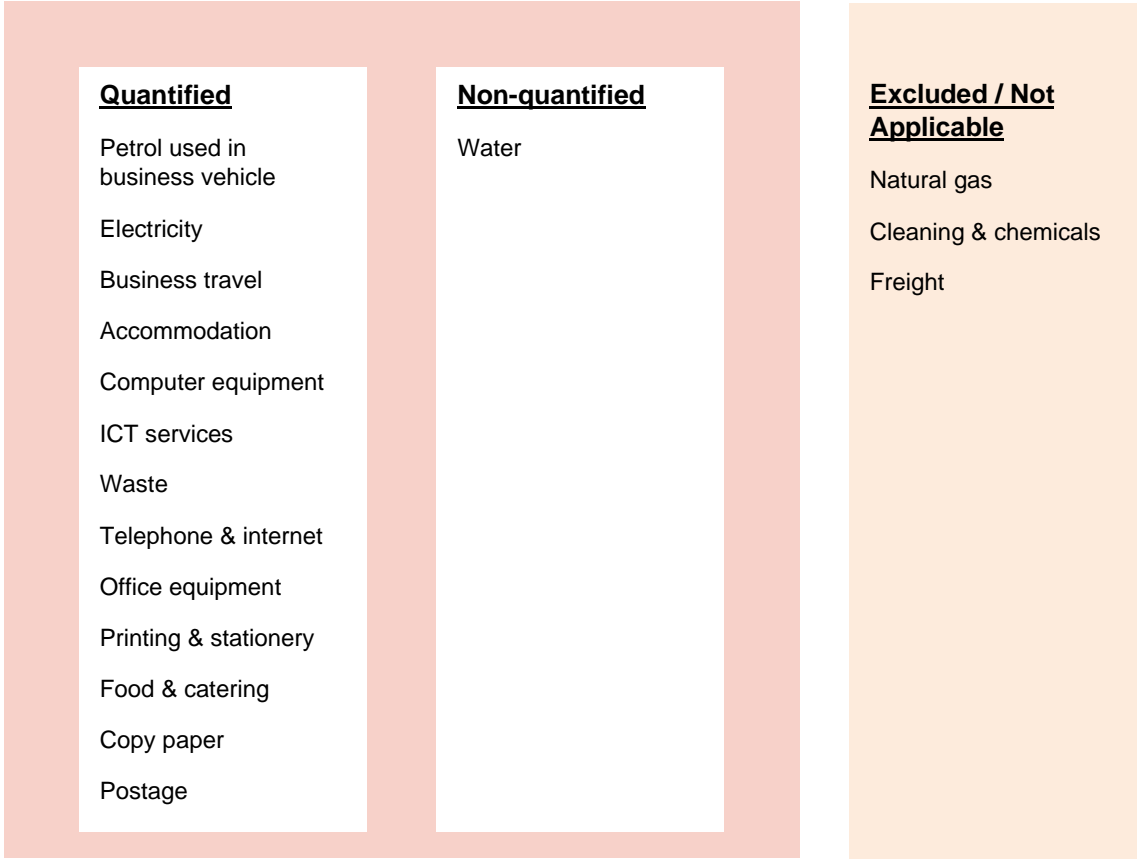
The inventory considers and quantifies carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions, measured in tonnes CO₂-e. We are not aware of any relevant sources of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), or nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃) within the operational boundary.

“As sustainability consultants, becoming certified carbon neutral was a natural step to take and the right thing to do.”

2. EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Diagram of the certification boundary

This is a small organisation certification, which uses the standard Climate Active small organisation emissions boundary. As shown below, some mandatory small organisation emissions sources are not applicable to our operations.



Non-quantified sources

The consumption of water has not been quantified and is considered immaterial. A 5% uplift has been included in the inventory to account for immaterial items.

Data management plan

Not applicable.

Excluded sources (outside of certification boundary)

Although natural gas, cleaning and chemicals, and freight are deemed relevant emissions under the small organisation certification, we do not use them and as such they have not been included in the carbon inventory.

“We support Climate Active, as the most credible carbon neutral certification available. The benefits of the program fit with our belief that sustainability is a key driver of positive outcomes for business including recognition, efficiency savings and business growth.”

3. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions reduction strategy

As a result of the actions taken to achieve this certification, SBC will not only be carbon neutral but carbon negative (offsetting more emissions than we cause).

As sustainability consultants, keeping the carbon emissions we can control or influence as low as possible is important to us. We therefore seek to avoid travel where we can. However we acknowledge that being physically present is sometimes necessary for our work and/or for our ongoing learning and development. Where this is the case, we travel by the lowest emissions causing method whilst taking into account the financial cost as well as the needs of the job. Where facilities are available, we cycle or take public transport and walk. Prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been using video conferencing facilities extensively and will make this our default position - making exceptions only where the benefits outweigh the cost.

In 2020/21, we are shifting office. Already our electricity use is minimal (estimated at only 355 kWh in 2019/20) however we aim to purchase GreenPower or carbon neutral power to at least cover that portion of the building's electricity consumption. Being in a well-lit office, lighting is not necessary during the day and air-conditioning is only used when indoor temperatures become uncomfortable; we prefer to wear suitable clothing rather than switch the air-conditioning on! Our computer equipment and printer are only switched on when needed and otherwise turned off.

Although our printing currently uses less than one ream of paper per year, we acquire carbon neutral certified copy paper and will continue to do so. We will also seek to use other carbon neutral suppliers. Used toner cartridges are recycled through Officeworks.

We are proud to be a zero-waste business with no office waste going to landfill. During our office move, we will recycle all unwanted items either by donating them to charities or using local council or other recycling facilities.

Emissions summary (inventory)

Table 1

Emission source category	tonnes CO ₂ -e
Computer equipment purchased	0.404
Business travel – petrol (post-2004 vehicle)	0.385
Business travel – tram	0.072
Telephone and internet	0.204
Electricity (location-based)	0.190
Office equipment	0.055

Food	0.044
ICT services	0.030
Postage	0.003
Copy paper (carbon neutral)	0.000
Waste to landfill	0.000
Hotel accommodation	0.000
Air travel	0.000
Printing and stationery	0.000
Total Net Emissions	1.387

Uplift factors

Table 2

Reason for uplift factor	tonnes CO ₂ -e
5% to account for immaterial items	0.069
<i>Total footprint to offset (uplift factors + net emissions)</i>	1.456
Rounded to full tCO₂-e	2

Carbon neutral products

Australian Paper carbon neutral copy paper (one ream).

Electricity summary

SBC has selected the location-based approach to calculate its electricity emissions.

The Climate Active team has concluded its review of the use of a market versus location-based approach for electricity accounting and the implications for carbon neutral certification. The decision made as a result of this review is that organisations must report electricity emissions on a dual basis, thus providing different perspective of business's electricity emissions. The following tables 3 and 4 refer.

Market-based approach electricity summary

Table 3

Electricity inventory items	kWh	Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ -e)
Electricity Renewables	66	0.00
Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	0.00
Electricity Remaining	289	0.31

Renewable electricity percentage	19%
Net emissions (Market based approach)	0.31

Location-based summary

Table 4

State/ Territory	Electricity Inventory items	kWh	Full Emission factor (Scope 2 +3)	Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)
SA	Electricity Renewables		-0.54	0.00
SA	Electricity Carbon Neutral Power		-0.54	0.00
SA	Netted off (exported on-site generation)		-0.44	0.00
SA	Electricity Total	356	0.54	0.19
	<i>Total net electricity emissions (Location based)</i>			0.19

4. CARBON OFFSETS

Offset purchasing strategy: in arrears, with additional offsets banked for future use.

Our offset purchasing policy is to invest in eligible projects that provide a benefit to the State in which we predominantly operate. If local offsets are not available, we will invest in projects that offer strong environmental benefits and which also offer sound co-benefits to local communities.

This year SBC has invested in South Australia's iconic charity Trees for Life as well as the Rimba Riya REDD+ Biodiversity Reserve forest carbon conservation project in Indonesia. See Co-benefits for more information on each.

Offsets summary

Table 5

1. Total offsets required for this report										2
2. Offsets retired in previous reports and used in this report										0
3. Net offsets required for this report										2
Project description	Type of offset units	Registry	Date retired	Serial number (and hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Quantity (tonnes CO2-e)	Quantity used in previous report	Quantity banked for future years	Quantity used in this report	
Rimba Riya REDD+ Biodiversity Reserve Project	VCUs	Verra	22 January 2021	5816-261749748-261749757-VCU-016-MER-ID-14-674-01072013-31122013-1 https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&h=124957	2013	10	N/A	8	2	
							<i>Total offsets retired this report and used in this report</i>		2	
							<i>Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports</i>		8	

Co-benefits

The Rimba Riya Biodiversity Reserve Project

In terms of avoided carbon emissions, this project is the largest REDD+ project in the world. REDD+, or Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, projects address conservation and sustainable development. Rimba Raya shows that it is possible to provide alternative income streams for local people through capacity building, investments in micro-finance and programs that provide basic necessities and access to a conservation model that does not put the developing world's need for economic growth at odds with our desire to protect a fragile ecosystem.

This project meets all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals through initiatives such as:

- Protecting endangered and indigenous wildlife such as the Borneo Orangutan, in partnership with the Orangutan Foundation International
- Tree planting and mangrove conservation
- Investing in community farms via responsible and sustainable agriculture.

Trees for Life

Trees for Life (TFL) restores and protects South Australian landscapes, raises awareness about nature and empowers people to take action. With over 7,000 supporters including an extensive list of volunteers who collect and/or grow seedlings, work in TFL's nurseries and help revegetate properties. TFL is a South Australian success story that has been highly awarded for its environment and community contributions.

Under the name TFL Carbon, the organisation creates biodiverse native forests that not only sequester carbon but provide habitat for local native wildlife and improve the condition of soil and water – reducing erosion and salinity. TFL's carbon plantings use diverse local species to provide maximum benefit for ecosystems in partnership with local landowners and the sites are protected by forest agreements.

5. USE OF TRADEMARK

Table 6

Description of where trademark will be used	Logo type
Email signature block	Certified organisation
Sustainable Business Consultants' website	Certified organisation
Social media	Certified organisation
Business cards	Certified organisation

APPENDIX 1

Excluded emissions

This is a small organisation certification, which uses the standard Climate Active small organisation emissions boundary. The sources of emissions that have been excluded are freight, cleaning and chemicals. This is because none of these are used in our business operations; they are therefore not applicable.

APPENDIX 2

Non-quantified emissions for organisations

Table 7

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 emissions but uplift applied.</i>	<i>Data unavailable but uplift applied.</i>

Water	Yes	Yes	Yes
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