



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**JOHN BRAND & CO. PTY LTD (TRADING AS)
BRAND ARCHITECTS**

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
FY2022–23 (TRUE UP)**


Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



An Australian Government Initiative



Brand Architects

NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	John Brand & Co Pty. Ltd, (trading as Brand Architects)
REPORTING PERIOD	1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023
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>Name of signatory Laurence Robinson Position of signatory Director Date 27/10/23</p>



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

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Version August 2023.



1. CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	110 tCO ₂ -e
OFFSETS USED	52% ACCUs, 48% CERs
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	64%
CARBON ACCOUNT	Prepared by: Shahin Chandriyakat Sustainability Lead Brand Architects
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	18 November 2022 Madlen Jannaschk Cundall Johnston & Partners Next technical assessment due: 2024

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2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

John Brand & Co Pty Ltd, trading as Brand Architects, ABN 320 063 361, certifies as an Organisation for our Australian business operations.

The certification covers the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, and is a true up of emissions that were initially projected using actual data for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. In future all certifications will be in arrears rather than in advance, therefore no further true ups will be required.

Organisation description

Brand Architects (ABN 320 063 361) is based in East Melbourne with many of our architectural projects located all over Victoria. The organization boundary for the purpose of carbon accounting has been set using the operational boundary approach. This includes our facility located in the following location:

- L8, 176 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne.

We are committed to the delivery of innovative architecture with an environmental and social conscience. Our projects aim to reflect and promote the aspirations of the community they serve. As a key player in the development of the built environment, we consider the ethical concerns of space-making in a global climate emergency and incorporate sustainable best practice in designing buildings that are future-focused and contextually informed.

Our design aesthetic evolves through the detailed consideration of place, client objectives and user experience. Because we care as much about how our buildings are used as we do about how they look, we follow an 'inside out approach', where the experience and functionality of spaces influence our building form.

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 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

Accommodation and facilities
Cleaning and chemicals
Electricity
Food
ICT services and equipment
Office equipment and supplies
Postage, courier and freight
Professional services
Stationary energy
Transport – air
Transport – land and sea
Waste
Water
Working from home

Non-quantified

Refrigerants

Outside emission boundary

Excluded

N/A

4. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Emissions reduction strategy

Brand Architects continue to follow a strategy to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with our operations.

This year we have managed to achieve our goal of reducing our emissions by 20% compared to last year. One of the major steps towards reducing our overall environmental and social impact was to onboard a sustainability specialist as part of our team this year. Additional emissions reductions were also achieved by using 100% Greenpower for the whole year.

We also made some major commitments as part of our sustainability strategy with the aim of reducing our long term environmental and social impact even as it might have resulted in an increased immediate expenses this year.

Some of the commitments are noted below:

- We are successfully progressing through our strategy to implement a firm wide Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) in line with our obligations as signatories to Architects Declare. The action plan will aim to formalise our emissions reduction approach and provide further reporting transparency. Among other commitments, the plan will also aim to include a comprehensive sustainable procurement policy by next year to cover our suppliers, sub-consultants and contractors. We have already developed an environmental procurement policy for our internal suppliers.
- We have started our application process to get BCorp certified for next year. BCorp organisations are recognised for demonstrating high levels of social and environmental performance as well as committing to transparency in their operations.

We achieved a 25% reduction in emissions related to our commute. This was brought about by a combination of better commuting practices by our staff by choosing public transport and walking or cycling over other private modes of transport and transitioning our fleet to either fully Electric or Hybrid vehicles. We will continue to encourage staff to use lower emission transport modes as frequently as possible and target a year-on-year reduction of 2% over base year resulting in a 5-10% reduction of overall commute emissions over the next five years compared to our baseline emissions in 2020.

Although our total waste increased by 25% this year, we achieved a 70% reduction in the total recycling waste produced and 100% of our food waste was disposed off in green bins. Our decision to purchase reusable cups (Keep cups) for the whole office has also promoted less use of takeaway cups. We will continue to compost food waste and will aim to reduce the total amount of waste created, including general waste and recycling waste, by focusing on accurately estimating required volumes of purchase in office and by continuing to ensure sufficient awareness of waste streams among the staff targeting. We hope this will bring about a year-on-year reduction of about 3-5%, targeting a total of 10-15% reduction in total waste produced in the next 5 years compared to the base year 2020.

Our ICT emissions increased this year by around 4% due to increased IT support resulting from making updates and changes to the online file management system. The emissions related to computer and electronic equipment, furniture, paper products and stationery were reduced by about 2% this year. We have drafted an environmentally preferable procurement policy for suppliers that support our internal operations, including preference for low emissions or zero emission suppliers. This policy will aim to further reduce our emissions by 5-10% in the next 5 years compared to the emissions of our base year.

Similarly, we will also aim to reduce the emissions related to our business service by including carbon-neutral requirements for the services provided by our sub-consultant. We have drafted an environmental commitment letter that documents our environmental aspirations and compliance expectations, including carbon neutrality requirements, pre-requisite to us entering into a contractual agreement with the sub-consultants. We anticipate this process to be a complex transition for our sub-consultants and have projected a grace period of around 24 months before our sub-consultants are able to get carbon neutral certified. We aim for the implementation of this policy to reduce our business service emissions by 10-15% over the next 5 years compared to the base year.

We have been providing our staff with resources that will help them make informed choices in relation to reducing their environmental footprint. The resources aim to cover a range of topics like superannuation funds, sustainable transportation modes, waste diversion, buying carbon offsets for flight trips etc. We hope the staff's personal choices will also be reflected in our firm's sustainability performance. These resources will be accessible to all on the firm's internal Sharepoint website.

With the above measures, we hope to achieve a total reduction of 20-25% in the total emissions over the next five years from the 2020 base year, with a longer-term target to reduce emissions by at least one third compared to the base year in the next 10 years.

Emissions reduction actions

The following actions were taken during the 22/23 financial year:

As per our commitment in the last financial year, we have transitioned 100% of our fleet to either Hybrid or full EV.

This year we reduced our recycling waste by 70% and composted 100% of our food waste by increasing awareness of waste streams among the staff.

The emissions related to our printing activities and paper products reduced by around 55% as we minimized the need for new equipment and stationery and consistently discouraged printing activities within the office.

This year our staff has successfully reduced their commute-related emissions by 25% by choosing less impactful travel modes.

5. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions over time

		Emissions since base year	
		Total tCO ₂ -e (without uplift)	Total tCO ₂ -e (with uplift)
Base year:	2019–20	124.7	137.3
Year 1:	2020–21	111.3	116.9
Year 2:	2021–22	130.8	137.3
Year 3:	2022-23	104.25	109.42

Significant changes in emissions

Emission source name	Current year (tCO ₂ -e)	Previous year (tCO ₂ -e)	Detailed reason for change
Computer and technical services	14.65	10.47	Increase in emissions due to increased IT support needed for changes/ update to existing file management services.

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

No climate active products or services were used in the 2022-23 financial year.

Emissions summary

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

The previous report was a projection report using representative data to estimate the emissions for the reporting year. This table shows the differences between the projected emissions and the actual emissions recorded.

Emission category	Projected emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	Sum of Scope 1 (t CO ₂ -e)	Sum of Scope 2 (t CO ₂ -e)	Sum of Scope 3 (t CO ₂ -e)	Sum of Total Emissions (t CO ₂ -e)
Accommodation and facilities	1.23	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.60
Cleaning and chemicals	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.79	0.79
Electricity	10.49	0.00	8.88	1.18	10.05
Food	20.87	0.00	0.00	2.55	2.55
ICT services and equipment	26.80	0.00	0.00	18.35	18.35
Office equipment and supplies	9.57	0.00	0.00	5.74	5.74
Postage, courier and freight	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02
Products	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.09
Professional services	14.32	0.00	0.00	30.05	30.05
Stationary energy (gaseous fuels)	4.44	2.93	0.00	0.20	3.13
Transport (air)	2.19	0.00	0.00	1.92	1.92
Transport (land and sea)	13.2	0.00	0.00	23.96	23.96
Waste	0.95	0.00	0.00	1.42	1.42
Water	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.49
Working from home	14.8	0.00	0.00	5.08	5.08
Total	130.8	2.93	8.88	92.44	104.25
Difference between projected and actual emissions	Projected minus actual = - 26.55 tCO ₂ -e				

Uplift factors

An uplift factor is an upwards adjustment to the total carbon inventory to account for relevant emissions that cannot 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
5% uplift factor has been applied to overall emissions data to account for data assumptions and refrigerants	5.21
Total of all uplift factors	5.21
Total emissions footprint to offset <i>(total emissions from summary table + total of all uplift factors)</i>	109.42

6. CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets retirement approach

This certification has taken an in-arrears offsetting approach. The total emission to offset is 110 tCO₂-e. The total number of eligible offsets used in this report is 110 tCO₂-e. Of the total eligible offsets used, 7 tCO₂-e were previously banked and 103 were newly purchased and retired. 110 tCO₂-e have been banked for future use.

Co-benefits

The Conlea Native Forest Protection Project aims to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by sequestering carbon in native forests. They achieve this via a mix of native trees, shrubs and understorey species that reflects the structure and composition of a protected native forest. GreenCollar works closely with the land manager of the project property to collect land management information every quarter to confirm that the land is being managed in accordance with the requirements of the 'Avoided Deforestation 1.1' Methodology (2015).

Greenfleet's native reforestation projects have had the impact of revegetating 408 hectares of Australia and New Zealand's legally protected forests in 2022. This will remove 448,452 tonnes of carbon over their lifetime and help restore native forests and ecosystems, which provide crucial habitat for endangered wildlife, help counter the devastating impact of the bushfires.

The Vishnu hydropower project aspires to close the gap in renewable energy sources in India to meet the accelerated demand for energy due to rapid growth as well as to ensure every citizen, especially the rural population of the country, has access to power under the 2012 Indian government initiative of 'Power for All'.

Eligible offsets retirement summary

Offsets retired 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 retired (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 (%)
Conlea Native reforestation project	KACCU	ANREU	19/10/23	8,999,197,051 - 8,999,197,103 Project Link	2023-24		53	-	53	-	
Greenfleet Greenfleet Native Biodiverse revegetation offset Stapled to Vishnupragyan Hydro-electric Project (VHEP) by Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd. (JPVL)	VCU	VERRA	19/10/2023	10593-230781684-230781733-VCS-VCU-259-VER-IN-1-173-01012013-31122013-0 https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&h=193357	01/2013-31/12/2013	50	50	-	50	-	
Batavia Savanna Burning Project	KACCU	ANREU	18/11/2022	8,346,190,462 - 8,346,190,521	21-22		60	-	7	53	48%

Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offsets Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor, Western Australia			18/11/2022	12PWA322405B - 12PWA322482B	CP2			-	-	-	-
Stapled to: Wind Power Project by Ushdev International Limited in Tamil Nadu	CDM CER	ANREU	18/11/2022	275,134,792 - 275,134,869		78	78	21	-	57	52%
Total eligible offsets retired and used for this report										110	
Total eligible offsets retired this report and banked for use in future reports										110	

Type of offset units	Eligible quantity (used for this reporting period)	Percentage of total
Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU)	53	48%
Certified Emissions Reductions (CERs)	57	52%

7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

N/A

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional offsets retired for purposes other than Climate Active Carbon Neutral Certification

Project description	Type of offset units	Registry	Date retired	Serial number (and hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Eligible Quantity (tCO ₂ -e)	Purpose of retirement
Greenfleet Native Forest and ecosystem reforestation project	Greenfleet Standard multi-phase verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FullCAM measured • EY assured • Pitcher Partners audited • 100-year Australian legal protection 	-	19/10/2023		-	50	Retired on behalf of Brand Architects for its Climate Active certification

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 market-based approach.

Market Based Approach Summary			
Market Based Approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kg CO2-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	38,264	0	64%
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)	11,297	0	19%
Residual Electricity	10,528	10,054	0%
Total renewable electricity (grid + non grid)	49,561	0	82%
Total grid electricity	60,088	10,054	82%
Total electricity (grid + non grid)	60,088	10,054	82%
Percentage of residual electricity consumption under operational control	100%		
Residual electricity consumption under operational control	10,528	10,054	
Scope 2	9,297	8,879	
Scope 3 (includes T&D emissions from consumption under operational control)	1,231	1,175	
Residual electricity consumption not under operational control	0	0	
Scope 3	0	0	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	82.48%
Mandatory	18.80%
Voluntary	63.68%
Behind the meter	0.00%
Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO2-e)	8.88
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO2-e)	1.18
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO2-e)	8.88
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO2-e)	1.18
Total emissions liability (t CO2-e)	10.05

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	100%	(kWh)	Scope 2 Emissions (kg CO2-e)	Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO2-e)	(kWh)	Scope 3 Emissions (kg CO2-e)
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	60,088	60,088	51,075	4,206	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)	60,088	60,088	51,075	4,206	0	0
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)	60,088					

Residual scope 2 emissions (t CO2-e)	51.08
Residual scope 3 emissions (t CO2-e)	4.21
Scope 2 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO2-e)	51.08
Scope 3 emissions liability (adjusted for already offset carbon neutral electricity) (t CO2-e)	4.21
Total emissions liability (t CO2-e)	55.28

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. 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	Justification reason
Refrigerants	Immaterial - <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively
	Cost effective - Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied

Data management plan for non-quantified sources

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

APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Excluded emission sources

To be deemed relevant an emission must meet two of the five below relevance criteria. No relevant emissions have been excluded from the emissions 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 organisation



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