



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**CHOICE – AUSTRALIAN CONSUMERS
ASSOCIATION**

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
FY2021-22**


Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement

CHOICE



An Australian Government Initiative



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	Australian Consumers Association - CHOICE
REPORTING PERIOD	Financial year 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 Arrears report
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>Matthew Steen Director - Reviews & Testing 28.02.24</p>



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

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



1. CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	809.1 tCO2
OFFSETS BOUGHT	810
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	86.01%
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	20.07.2023 Morna McGuire Pangolin Associates Next technical assessment due: 20.07.2023

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3. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

This inventory has been prepared for the financial year from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 and covers the Australian business operations of Australian Consumers' Association ("CHOICE"), ABN 72 000 281 925.

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:

- 57 Carrington Road, Marrickville 2204 NSW

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.

The greenhouse gases considered within the inventory are those that are commonly reported under the Kyoto Protocol; carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and synthetic gases - hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃). These have been expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂-e) using relative global warming potentials (GWPs) as specified in the 2014 IPCC Assessment Report 5 with a 100 year horizon

Organisation description

The Australian Consumers Association ("CHOICE") is a not for profit organisation located in Marrickville, NSW. CHOICE is Australia's largest consumer organisation. Independent and member-funded, CHOICE's purpose is to work for fair, just and safe markets that meet the needs of Australian consumers.

4. 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

The following are the excluded emission sources from the certification boundary and the reasons for their exclusion. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the relevance test.

- Capital investment equipment has been excluded as it has been assessed as not relevant according to the relevance test.

Inside emissions boundary		Outside emission boundary
<p><u>Quantified</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation and facilities Cleaning and Chemicals Climate Active Carbon Neutral Products and Services Electricity Food ICT services and equipment Office equipment & supplies Postage, courier and freight Professional Services Refrigerants Stationary Energy (gaseous fuels) Transport (Air) Transport (Land and Sea) Waste Water Working from home 	<p><u>Non-quantified</u></p> <p>N/A</p>	<p><u>Excluded</u></p> <p>Capital investment</p>
	<p><u>Optionally included</u></p> <p>N/A</p>	

Data management plan for non-quantified sources

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

5. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

Emissions reduction strategy

We continue to assess and measure what we do to determine how we can reduce our environmental impact and below are our key initiatives for 2023.

- Conducting an annual GHG Assessment of our scopes 1, 2 & 3;
- Reassessing annually our targets and analyse how we track with our actions and emissions reduction;
- Installation of an additional 100kW PV on roof;
- Replacement of petrol car with EV;
- Installation of EV chargers to incentivise take up of EVs amongst staff;
- Start utilising 100% Greenpower for electricity and gas in Jan 22 and will continue to do so onwards;
- Replacing the remaining halogen and CFL with LED lights.

CHOICE commits to reduce total scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions from the business by 30% by 2030 compared to a 2020 baseline. This will be achieved through the following measures:

Scope 1 emissions will be reduced by:

- Utilising EV or hybrid cars when needed for offsite testing
- Reducing gas appliance testing, apart from BBQs
- Aim to replace HVAC units with less carbon intense refrigerants

Scope 2 emissions will be reduced by:

- Utilising Greenpower for remaining electricity
- Increasing the efficiency of heating, ventilation and air conditioning units by replacing older units with new efficient models.

Scope 3 emissions will be reduced by:

- Tracking supplier transitions to carbon reduction;
- Replacing suppliers where possible with Climate Active suppliers (procurement controls across IT, Accounting, Telecommunications, cloud services, professional services, events, products, food and catering);
- Reducing output of paper-based products over time;
- Provide remote and hybrid flexible working arrangements which decreases commute time;
- Reducing flights by using video conferencing instead of flying. A reduction of 80% is expected by 2025.

Emissions reduction actions

Please see below emission reduction actions completed by CHOICE in FY20/21:

- Conducting an annual GHG Assessment of our scopes 1, 2 & 3;
- Reassessing annually our targets and analyse how we track with our actions and emissions reduction;
- Greenpower purchase agreement with Origin from Jan 2022 onwards.
- Purchased offsets via AGL to offset Scope 1 gas emissions (see attached) from Jan 2022 onwards.
- Assessed ICT efficiency options with Head of IT.
- LED replacement completed for building (halogens out front).
- Air con programming optimised.

6. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions over time

Table 1, below, shows the absolute emissions since the base year.

The changes from COVID have encouraged a hybrid mentality from CHOICE with regards to staff that have roles that are able to be conducted from home.

Emissions since base year		Total tCO ₂ -e
Base year:	2015–16	1,105.1
Year 2:	2016–17	1,092.0
Year 3:	2017–18	912.2
Year 4:	2018-19	855.6
Year 5	2019-20	1,198.2
Year 6	2020-21	1,179.2
Year 7	2021-22	809.1

Significant changes in emissions

Emission source name	Current year (tCO ₂ -e)	Previous year (tCO ₂ -e)	Detailed reason for change
Mailing services: parcels, postal and courier	157.1	253.2	We were double counting paper usage for the magazine, including both the dollar value AND the volume of paper used. Clearing this up reduced this amount.
Total net electricity emissions (Market based)	52.8	282.5	We moved to Greenpower within FY22 which reduced emissions.
Computer and technical services	52.4	7.9	Last year these were separately listed as ICT services and equipment (7.9 tonnes CO ₂ -e). This year we separated out more from professional services such as cloud services and other software services.
Technical services	188.1	0.0	This year we separated out more from professional services such as cloud services and other software services.

Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

- CHOICE opted in for carbon neutral flight tickets when travelling by air.

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)	Sum of total emissions (tCO ₂ -e)
Accommodation and facilities	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.2
Cleaning and Chemicals	0.0	0.0	4.7	4.7
Climate Active Carbon Neutral Products and Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Electricity	0.0	52.8	0.0	52.8
Food	0.0	0.0	4.4	4.4
ICT services and equipment	0.0	0.0	77.6	77.6
Office equipment & supplies	0.0	0.0	45.9	45.9
Postage, courier and freight	0.0	0.0	162.9	162.9
Professional Services	0.0	0.0	375.7	375.7
Refrigerants	0.0	0.0	29.6	29.6
Stationary Energy (gaseous fuels)	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.6
Transport (Air)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transport (Land and Sea)	1.2	0.0	12.1	13.3
Waste	0.0	0.0	13.5	13.5
Water	0.0	0.0	2.4	2.4
Working from home	0.0	0.0	24.6	24.6
Total	1.6	52.8	754.7	809.1

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
N/A	
Total of all uplift factors	0
Total footprint to offset <i>(total net emissions from summary table + total uplifts)</i>	809.1

7. CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets retirement approach

In arrears		
1.	Total number of eligible offsets banked from last year's report	852
2.	Total emissions footprint to offset for this report	810
3.	Total eligible offsets required for this report	810
4.	Total eligible offsets purchased and retired for this report	810
5.	Total eligible offsets banked to use toward next year's report	42

Co-benefits

150 MW grid connected Wind Power based electricity generation project in Gujarat, India.

Project type: Energy industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)

Besides generating renewable energy, 150 MW grid connected Wind Power based electricity generation project in Gujarat, India, seeks to achieve additional benefits to the local community. They promote rural development through fodder cultivation to feed animals, integrated livestock development (artificial Insemination), shade nets to cover vegetable crops, and youth training and skill development. They also promote improvements in health with a project to enhance access to preventative healthcare and early diagnosis and intervention for the population in the Gujarat region, and by upskilling healthcare volunteers in Gujarat, India.

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 (%)
150 MW grid connected Wind Power based electricity generation project in Gujarat, India.	VCU	Verra	28 Apr 2021	9088-67279995-67282026-VCS-VCU-1491-VER-IN-1-292-18062016-31122016-0	2016	0	2,032	1,180	42	810	100%
Total offsets retired this report and used in this report										810	
Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports									42		
Type of offset units		Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)					Percentage of total				
VCUs		810					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	117,162	0	31%
Total non-grid electricity	117,162	0	31%
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs & Precinct LGCs)	0	0	0%
GreenPower	160,332	0	42%
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)	48,725	0	13%
Residual Electricity	53,048	52,781	0%
Total grid electricity	262,105	52,781	55%
Total Electricity Consumed (grid + non grid)	379,267	52,781	86%
Electricity renewables	326,219	0	
Residual Electricity	53,048	52,781	
Exported on-site generated electricity	0	0	
Emissions (kgCO ₂ e)		52,781	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	86.01%
Mandatory	12.85%
Voluntary	42.27%
Behind the meter	30.89%
Residual Electricity Emission Footprint (TCO₂e)	53

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 (kgCO2e)	Scope 3 Emissions (kgCO2e)
ACT	0	0	0
NSW	262,105	204,442	18,347
SA	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	262,105	204,442	18,347
ACT	0	0	0
NSW	117,162	0	0
SA	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0
Qld	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0
Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)	117,162	0	0
Total Electricity Consumed	379,267	204,442	18,347
Emission Footprint (TCO2e)	223		
<i>Scope 2 Emissions (TCO2e)</i>	<i>204</i>		
<i>Scope 3 Emissions (TCO2e)</i>	<i>18</i>		

Climate Active Carbon Neutral Electricity summary

Carbon Neutral electricity offset by Climate Active Product	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO2e)
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.

No emission sources within CHOICE's FY2023 boundary were non-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				

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.

Capital Investment was excluded from CHOICEs FY2022 assessment.

Relevance test					
Excluded emission sources	<i>The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions</i>	<i>The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.</i>	<i>Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.</i>	<i>The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.</i>	<i>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.</i>
Capital Investment	No	No	No	No	No



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