



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**AUSTRALIAN CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION
("CHOICE")**

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
FY2020-2021**

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



An Australian Government Initiative



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: Australian Consumers' Association
("CHOICE")

REPORTING PERIOD: Financial year 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Kirkland".

11 April 2022

Signature

Date

Alan Kirkland

Name of Signatory

CEO

Position of Signatory



Australian Government

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

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Version number February 2021

1. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

This inventory has been prepared for the financial year from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 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.

“CHOICE is committed to maximising our social impact and minimising our environmental impact. That’s why participating in the Climate Active program is important to CHOICE.”

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.

CHOICE owns its facilities at 57 Carrington Road, Marrickville. In this building, a childcare centre is co-located, but not separately metered. The carbon inventory for CHOICE thus encompasses emissions relating to the childcare centre for refrigerants, electricity, waste, and water consumption. CHOICE can influence electricity-consuming equipment like lights and air conditioning for the childcare centre.

2. EMISSION BOUNDARY

Diagram of the certification boundary



Non-quantified sources

N/A

Data management plan

N/A

Excluded sources (outside of certification 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.

3. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions reduction strategy

CHOICE has dedicated the following activities over next two years;

- 1) Remaining LED replacement - FY22
- 2) Research and quoting virtually separating the child care centre electrics (embedded network) - FY22
- 3) Air con programming - FY22
- 4) Assess further efficiency options for ICT equipment - FY22
- 5) Additional solar panels quote & install - FY23 - anchor point complexity
- 6) Research and if feasible implement biodegradable plastic cover for the CHOICE magazine - FY23

Emissions over time

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

The changes arising from COVID have led CHOICE to adopt a hybrid working model for roles that are able to be conducted from home. This means, over the 2020-21 period, less carbon emissions emitted from the building, but displaced to other areas.

Activities with significant emission changes include:

- **Paper (increased by 856%):** A change in the way CHOICE collects data on paper means that now all paper types are allocated to one activity type. Consequently, paper appears to be much higher, despite an effort to reduce paper usage.
- **Advertising & promotion (decreased by 19%):** due to the natural increase in subscriptions due to COVID, CHOICE has been able to reduce spend on advertising and promotions.

Table 1

Emissions since base year						
	Base year: 2015-16	Year 2: 2016-17	Year 3: 2017-18	Year 4: 2018-19	Year 5: 2019-20	Current year Year 6: 2020-21
<i>Total tCO₂-e</i>	1,105.1	1,092.0	912.2	855.6	1,198.2	1,179.2

Emissions reduction actions

Few emission reduction actions have taken place over the 2020-21 period. Incidental activities were the relocation of many people to working from home. ICT emissions reductions were undertaken as a result of an audit that took place in 2019.

Emissions summary (inventory)

Table 2

Emission source category	tonnes CO ₂ -e
Accommodation and facilities	1.5
Air Transport (km)	2.7
Carbon neutral products and services	0.0
Cleaning and Chemicals	6.8
Electricity	282.5
Food	0.6
ICT services and equipment	7.9
Land and Sea Transport (\$)	0.1
Land and Sea Transport (fuel)	0.3
Land and Sea Transport (km)	11.3
Office equipment & supplies	268.1
Postage, courier and freight	253.8
Professional Services	275.6
Refrigerants	18.0
Stationary Energy	0.4
Waste	22.5
Water	1.4
Working from home	25.5
<i>Total Net Emissions</i>	1,179.2

Uplift factors

Table 3

Reason for uplift factor	tonnes CO ₂ -e
N/A	
<i>Total footprint to offset (uplift factors + net emissions)</i>	1,179.2

Carbon neutral products

- PlanetArk carbon neutral paper (see: <https://www.climateactive.org.au/buy-climate-active/certified-members/opal-australian-paper>)
- This assessment and Climate Active submission was prepared with the assistance of [Pangolin Associates](#) and these services are also carbon neutral.

Electricity summary

Electricity was calculated using a location-based approach.

Market-based approach summary

Table 4

Market-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO ₂ -e)	Renewable %
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	0	0	0%
Total non-grid electricity	0	0	0%
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs & Precinct LGCs)	0	0	0%
GreenPower	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LGCs retired)	0	-	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LRET) (applied to ACT grid electricity)	0	0	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	59,413	0	19%
Residual Electricity	254,525	273,126	0%
Total grid electricity	313,938	273,126	19%
Total Electricity Consumed (grid + non grid)	313,938	273,126	19%
Electricity renewables	59,413	0	
Residual Electricity	254,525	273,126	
Exported on-site generated electricity	0	0	
Emission Footprint (kgCO ₂ e)		273,126	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	18.93%
Mandatory	18.93%
Voluntary	0.00%
Behind the meter	0.00%
Residual Electricity Emission Footprint (tCO₂e)	273

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

**Location-based approach summary
Table 5**

Location-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO ₂ e)
NSW	313,938	282,544
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	313,938	282,544
NSW	0	0
Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)	0	0
Total Electricity Consumed	313,938	282,544

Emission Footprint (tCO₂-e)	283
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4. CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets strategy

Table 6

Offset purchasing strategy:	
In arrears	
1. Total offsets previously forward purchased and banked for this report	2,032
2. Total emissions liability to offset for this report	1,180
3. Net offset balance for this reporting period	0
4. Total offsets to be forward purchased to offset the next reporting period	852
5. Total offsets required for this report	1,180

Co-benefits

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

The main purpose of the project is to generate renewable electricity using wind power and feed the generated output to the local grid in Gujarat, contributing to climate change mitigation efforts. In addition to the generation of renewable energy-based electricity, the project has also been conceived to enhance the propagation of commercialisation of wind power generation in the region and to contribute to the sustainable development of the region, socially, environmentally and economically.

The proposed project activity leads to alleviation of poverty by establishing direct and indirect employment benefits accruing out of infrastructure development of wind farms, installation work, operation and management of wind farm, providing daily needs, etc.

The infrastructure in and around the project area will also improve due to project activity. This includes development of road network and improvement of electricity quality, frequency and availability as the electricity is fed into a deficit grid.

The generated electricity is fed into the Western regional grid through local grid, thereby improving the grid frequency and availability of electricity to the local consumers (villagers & sub-urban habitants), providing new opportunities for industries and economic activities to be setup in the area thereby resulting in greater local employment, ultimately leading to overall development.

Offsets summary

Proof of cancellation of offset units

Table 7

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	Eligible Quantity (tCO ₂ -e)	Quantity used for previous reporting periods	Quantity banked for future reporting periods	Quantity used for this reporting period claim	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	2,032	0	852	1,180	100%
Total offsets retired this report and used in this report									1,180	
Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports								852		

Type of offset units	Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)	Percentage of Total
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	1,180	100%

5. USE OF TRADE MARK

Table 8

Description where trademark used	Logo type
In-house: Banners; internal TV advertising screens, email signatures, business cards	Certified organisation
External: Article in the CHOICE magazine, Annual Report, email signatures and other correspondence to members (EDMs). On CHOICE webpage. At the front of the building. On campaigns websites, Tablet Magazine, Online banner advertising, Consumer Pulse online (survey sent out), CHOICE Recommended scheme, CHOICE Test Research reports.	Certified organisation

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None.

APPENDIX 1

Excluded emissions

To be deemed relevant an emission must meet two of the five relevance criteria. Excluded emissions are detailed below against each of the five criteria.

Table 9

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	No	No	No	No	No
Investment					
Equipment					

APPENDIX 2

Non-quantified emissions for organisations

Table 10

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 emission but uplift applied.</i>	<i>Data unavailable but uplift applied. A data management plan must be put in place to provide data within 5 years.</i>	<i>Initial emissions non-quantified but repairs and replacements quantified</i>

N/A



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