Education
Services
Australia

Environment Report
2019-20

March 2021

Contents

1   Introduction

Established in March 2010, Education Services Australia (ESA) is a national not-for-profit company owned by the state, territory and Australian Government education ministers.

Its role as a leading education service provider is to work collaboratively in the interests of all Australian education jurisdictions to provide technology-based services for education. ESA develops cost-efficient products and services that can be adapted in response to emerging technologies and changing needs of the education and training sector.

ESA provides:

- development, sharing and deployment of nationally owned technical data and assessment systems
- digital teaching and learning resources, tools and services
- information and communications technology services.

1.1   Environment Policy

Education Services Australia (ESA) maintains a strong ethos of environmental responsibility. The company has an Environment Policy (Appendix 1), and the Board receives an annual environment report on the previous financial year, that is published on the ESA website.

The ESA Environment Policy provides direction for the company's environment program and public reporting, which should include:

- an emissions inventory
- achievements to date
- details on purchased offsets
- information on external assurance
- identification of future opportunities
- targets for the next financial year.

1.2   Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard Certification

Education Services Australia is one of 144 companies in Australia to have achieved certification as a carbon-neutral company under the Australian Government's Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard (formerly known as the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) scheme).

ESA was first certified in 2012, and has maintained certification every year since then. To be certified as Climate Active, ESA is required to measure its emissions against the standard on an annual basis; reduce them where possible; offset remaining emissions; and publicly report on its achievements. An emissions inventory audit is also required every three years.

Details of the ESA's certification can be found on the Australian Government's Climate Active webpage

1.3   Emissions Targets 2019–20

As opportunities for further reduction of emissions in an office-based environment can be difficult to find. ESA's target for 2019-20 was to maintain emissions per FTE at 2018-19 levels.

The company exceeded its emissions target, recording a 13% decrease in emissions per FTE—down from 7.26 CO2-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2018-19 to 6.32 CO2-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2019-20. An 11.5% decrease in total emissions from the previous year, was also recorded.

The decrease is almost entirely due to the government requirement to work from home from March 2020 through to the end of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen reductions from all sources, but most significantly in electricity, staff travel and accommodation and staff commute to work.

Nevertheless, reduction actions taken by ESA in the reporting period would have had greater impact had staff continued to be in the workplace. These included the upgrade and replacement of desktop computers with laptops, which commenced during 2018-19. In total, approximately 90% of the workstation computers were replaced. The standard sized desktops, which have a power rating of 240W, were replaced with laptops and desktop mini's which have a much lower power rating of 65W each.

2   Emissions Inventory

The Education Services Australia emissions inventory has been prepared in accordance with the
Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations.

ESA is demand driven, responding to the needs of the Australian ministers with responsibility for education. As such, its business activities may fluctuate significantly from year to year. To enable longitudinal comparisons, emission inventory results are reported as both absolute and intensity measures.

Table 1 provides a detailed emissions inventory that provides emission sources, consumption amounts CO2-e (tonnes) and proportion of total inventory.

**Table 1: Education Services Australia Limited Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory
1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020**

Based on Greenhouse Gas Protocol "A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard"

Emission Source	Consumption Units	Consumption	CO2-e (tonnes)	Proportion of total inventory
Direct Emissions - Scope 1				
Refrigerant Leakage	NA	NA	1	0.15%
ICT & equipment	$	492,375	92	12.57%
Natural Gas used on site by landlord as part of base building service	GJ	491	25	3.47%
Subtotal - Direct emissions Scope1:			**118**	**16.20%**
Indirect Emissions - Scope 2				
Purchased Electricity - excluding base building	kWh	170,166	174	23.82%
Purchased Electricity - tenant's share of base building use	kWh	171,654	175	24.03%
Telecommunications	$	39,399	6	0.85%
Subtotal - Indirect emissions Scope 2:			**355**	**48.71%**
Indirect Emissions - Scope 3				
Emissions from fuel extraction & T&D line losses for purchased elect	kWh	170,166.21	17	2.34%
Emissions from fuel extraction & T&D line losses - tenant's share of base building electricity	kWh	171,653.99	17	2.36%
Data Centre	$	158,695.10	23	3.22%
Emissions from fuel extraction of natural gas	GJ	490.72	2	0.26%
Reticulated Water Supplied by Landlord as part of base building serv	kL	1,045	1	0.13%
Staff Travel - Taxi	Km	8,414	1	0.19%
Staff Travel - Accomodation	No of nights	249.00	18	2.44%
Staff Air Travel - Very short Flights Very short <400 km	km	3,596.87	1	0.08%
Staff Air Travel - Short haul 400 - 3,700 km	km	407,539.61	71	9.79%
Staff Air Travel - Long haul > 10,700 km	km	63,750.79	23	3.11%
Staff Commute	km	783,689.76	51	6.98%
General municipal solid waste	tonne	25	30	4.08%
Recyled paper waste	tonne	7	-	0.00%
Commingled Recylable Waste	tonne	8	-	0.00%
Office Paper	kg	398	1	0.12%
Subtotal - Indirect emissions Scope 3:			**256**	**35.09%**
Total Emissions			**729**	**100.00%**

Reduction Measures				
Prior years Offsets surplus			(30)	
Offsets Purchases			(720)	
Total Net Emissions			**(21)**	

2.1 Trend Data: Total Emissions

Table 2 provides a summary of the inventory results from 2015-16 to current year 2019-20. Though ESA has been producing emissions inventories since 2010-11, in 2015-16 ESA was required, to re-calculate its baseline for that year. This was due to it being the first year after its publications unit was closed down, resulting in a large reduction in freight costs, as well as publications paper and their associated emissions.

All figures in this report use the 2015-16 re-calculated baseline.

Table 2: Emissions Inventory Summary 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2020

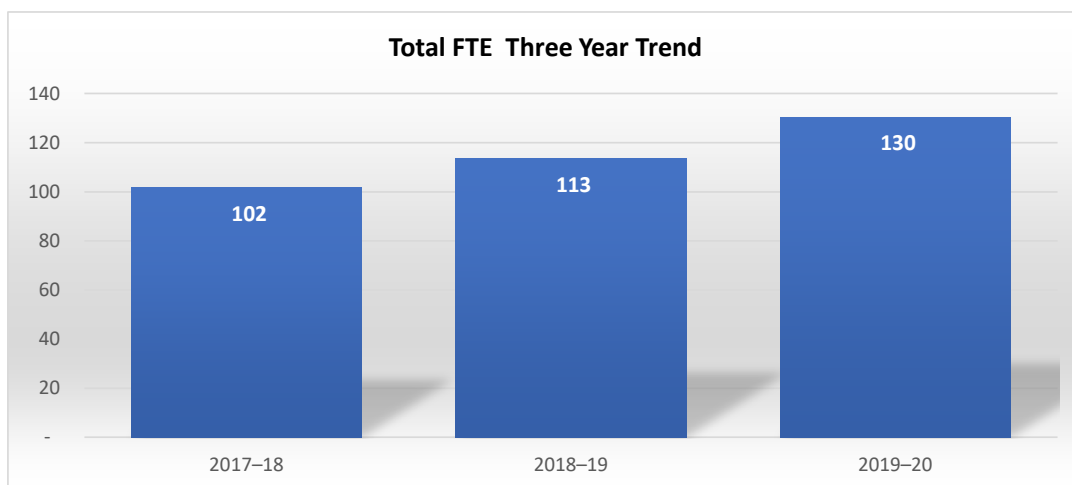|	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Emission Source	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)
Electricity	555	480	403	392	383
ICT & equipment	-	-	-	-	121
Staff Air Travel	196	152	145	145	95
Waste	57	56	53	56	30
Publications/Paper	-	-	-	-	-
Natural Gas	33	30	23	27	27
Staff Taxi Travel	5	6	4	3	1
Freight	-	-	-	-	-
Water use	2	3	2	2	1
Office Paper	2	1	1	1	1
Refrigerant Leakage	1	1	1	1	1
Accomodation	-	-	19	21	18
Staff Commute	-	-	52	175	51
Total Emissions	**851**	**729**	**703**	**824**	**729**
Offsets Measures					
Offsets Purchased	(1,000)	(600)	(700)	(750)	(720)
Total NET Emissions	**(235)**	**(106)**	**(103)**	**(30)**	**(30)**

This reporting period shows a 11.56% decrease in total emissions in comparison to the prior year and also a 14.41% decrease against base year. The most dramatic fall in emissions was in the staff commute, which fell to just below 2017-18 emissions, when this measure was first introduced.

2.2 Trend Data: Emissions per FTE

Table 3: Emissions Inventory Summary per FTE 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2020

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Emissions Source	CO2-e (tonnes) per FTE	CO2-e (tonnes) per FTE	CO2-e (tonnes) per FTE	CO2-e (tonnes) per FTE	CO2-e (tonnes) per FTE
Electricity	5.12	4.60	3.96	3.46	3.01
ICT & equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Staff Air Travel	1.81	1.46	1.42	1.27	1.11
Publications/Paper	-	-	-	-	-
Natural Gas	0.30	0.29	0.23	0.24	0.21
Freight	-	-	-	-	-
Waste	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.49	0.43
Staff Taxi Travel	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.02
Water use	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
Office Paper	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Refrigerant Leakage	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Accomodation	-	-	0.18	0.18	0.16
Staff Commute	-	-	0.51	1.54	1.35
Total Emissions	**7.85**	**7.00**	**6.92**	**7.26**	**6.32**

Figure 1: Average FTE of Staff 2017-18 to 2019-20

Emissions per FTE decreased by 13%—down from 7.26 CO2-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2018-19 to 6.32 CO2-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2019-20. The emissions per FTE are the lowest recorded since the recalculated base year in 2015-16, despite a 27 per cent increase in FTE over the last three years.

3   Offsets

An arrears approach to purchasing and retiring offsets is taken, whereby ESA calculates its carbon emissions at the end of the reporting period and then purchases and retires offsets equivalent to a net of zero at a minimum as shown in Table 4.

Education Services Australia purchases carbon offsets that are recognized under the National Carbon Offset Standard. From 2016-17 a preference has been given to purchasing Australian based offsets.

Table 4: ESA Offsets purchased 2013-14 to 2018-19

	Emission consumption	Offsets purchased	Project Name	Serial number
Opening balance		-535	Mongolia Chifeng Gaofeng Wind Power Project	2188-89507614-89511113-VCU-008-APX- CN-1-813-01012009-31122009-0.
Year 2013-14	1336	-801	Guohua Wulate Zhongqi Chuanjing Phase II Wind Farm Project	3310-148791211-148792011-VCU-003-APX-CN-1-1200-01012010-31122010-0
Year 2014-15	913	-1000	Hebei Chongli Qingsanying 49.3MW Wind Farm Project	738-32915440-32916439-VCU-008-APX-CN-1-394-14082008-22022009-0
Year 2015-16	851	-1000	Wind Power project at Jaibhim by SIIL, India	4549-189376272-189377271-VCU-048-MER-IN-1-1525-11032011-31122011-0
Year 2016-17	729	-600	Protection of a Tasmanian Native Forest project (Project 3: Peter Downie)	2657-116686188-116686787-VCU-016-MER-AU-14-587-01032011-29022012-0
Year 2017-18	703	-700	The Longdowns Regeneration Project in Australia	3,773,703,346 – 3,773,704,045
Prior Year Closing balance		-103		
Year 2018-19	824	-218	Fish River Fire Project (Carbon Farming Initiative—Emissions Abatement through Savanna Fire Management)	3,782,912,053 – 3,782,912,270
		-532	Delta Regeneration Project (Human-Induced Regeneration of a Permanent Even-Aged Native Forest)	3,789,227,613 – 3,789,228,144
Prior Year Closing balance		**-30**		
Year 2019-20	729	**-720**	Thaa-Nguigarr Carbon Project (Savanna Burning – Indigenous co-benefits)	3,800,966,433 – 3,800,967,152
Closing balance		**-21**		

4 External Assurance

To maintain its certification, ESA is required to obtain third-party verification of the emissions inventory on a triennial basis. An audit was conducted for 2019-20

5 Achievements

5.1 2018-19 Achievements

During the year, further reductions have involved the continuation of the upgrade program to replace desktop computers with laptops, which commenced during 2018-19. In total, approximately 90% of the workstation computers have now been replaced. The standard sized desktops, which have a power rating of 240W, were replaced with laptops and desktop mini's which have a power rating of 65W each.

ESA has continued to encourage the use of less paper where ever possible. Communications and marketing are done via social media and have increasingly replaced paper-based campaigns in this reporting year. Furthermore, staff are encouraged to use video/audio conferencing, where possible, instead of travelling.

In addition to the TerraCycle program ESA encourages staff to reduce the use of soft plastics by making available a space dedicated to reusable shopping bags, included in this space are dedicated bins for recycling soft plastics, coffee cups, used cosmetics packaging and batteries.

5.2 Environment Target 2020-21

The distortion caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to work from home, makes it difficult to set targets for the coming year. Given that the first six months of 2020-21 will have all staff continuing to work from home and the remaining six months will comprise a staggered return to work, as well as flexible working arrangements, the staff commute might be expected to be at least half that of 2019-20.

However, increases in FTE and floor space remaining at previous year's levels, or increasing, may mitigate against this. The target for 2020-21 will therefore be reduce emissions per FTE by 10% from 2018-19 levels.

6   Appendices

6.1   Appendix 1: Education Services Australia Environment Policy

Background

Education Services Australia is committed to implementing policies and practices to minimise its environmental impact and to support environmental sustainability. The company believes this is a responsible and ethical course for a modern organisation. In taking action on environment issues, the company will:

- contribute to Australia's efforts to reduce environmental impact

- meet expectations of stakeholders, clients and staff

- maximise efficiency and reduce costs

- improve its ability to attract and retain the best talent

- strengthen its reputation as a socially responsible supplier of education services

- add credibility to its activities within sustainability education.

Scope

This policy applies to all Education Services Australia operations with the exception of the Education Council, which is outside its operational control.

Commitment

This policy commits Education Services Australia to:

- minimise its impact on the environment through reduced greenhouse gas emissions and reduced resource usage

- be carbon neutral

- implement best-practice carbon-management principles

- report a summary of progress in the company's Annual Report

- report in detail in the annual Environment Report

- include environmental education material where possible in its services, recognising that the capacity to do so is dictated by clients' requirements.

Implementation

Implementation to be reported through the Environment Report will include:

- annual greenhouse gas reduction targets

- annual waste, energy and water reduction targets

- an emissions inventory

- progress reports against targets, which should show trends as well as details of methodologies used in measurement

- details of purchased offsets

- details of future opportunities that will give rise to reductions

- progress reports against identified opportunities

- independent external assurance confirmation.

All targets will be time bound and quantified in absolute terms (total emissions and usage) and in intensity terms (reported by a unit of volume, e.g. per full-time equivalent employee) and will be reported against a baseline-year emissions measurement.

Responsibility

This policy is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer. It will be reviewed annually to ensure ongoing relevance.