

Environment Report 2020-21

April 2022

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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) is proud of its strong record of supporting environmental responsibility and sustainability. 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 330 brands in Australia to have achieved Climate Active 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 2020–21

Opportunities to reduce emissions in an office-based environment can be scarce and difficult to identify and implement. ESA's target for 2020-21 was to maintain emissions per FTE at 2019-20 levels.

The company exceeded its emissions target, recording a 20% decrease in emissions per FTE—down from 6.32 CO₂-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2019-20 to 5.05 CO₂-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2021-21. Despite this, a 5% increase in total emissions from the previous year was recorded.

The increase is predominantly due to the inclusion of emissions made by employees while working from home in the inventory calculation. The Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard requires that emissions relating to home energy use be quantified in the 2020-21 report. The emissions were calculated with Climate Active's Work From Home Calculator using a location based approach per FTE.

As expected, there was a reduction in emissions resulting from staff commute, tenants and base building electricity, and staff travel. There was an increase in ICT and equipment related emissions as the purchase of hardware, software and data centre related costs are now included in the inventory.

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 2020 - 30 June 2021**

Based on the Climate Active initiative and Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard
(formerly the National Carbon Offset Standard)

Emission Source	Consumption Units	Consumption	CO2-e (tonnes)	Proportion of total inventory
Direct Emissions - Scope 1				
Refrigerant Leakage	kg CO2e	251	0	0%
ICT & equipment	\$	1,290,526	226	30%
Datacentre Storage	\$	172,527	26	3%
Telecommunications	\$	47,683	8	1%
Subtotal - Direct emissions Scope 1:			259	34%
Direct & Indirect Emissions - Scope 1, 2 & 3				
Electricity - tenants share & base building	kg CO2e	282,839	283	37%
Natural Gas used on site by landlord as part of base building services	GJ	462	26	3%
Subtotal - Direct & Indirect Emissions - Scope 1, 2 & 3			308	40%
Indirect Emissions - Scope 3				
Air Transport - Long haul > 10,700 km	pax.km	-	-	0%
Air Transport - Short haul 400 - 3,700 km	pax.km	2,819.57	0	0%
Air Transport - Very short flights (≤400km)	pax.km	-	-	0%
Commingled Recyclable Waste	tonne	3	-	0%
General municipal solid waste	tonne	5	9	1%
Office Paper	kg	180	0	0%
Reticulated Water Supplied by Landlord as part of base building services	kL	9,536	23	3%
Staff Commute	km	-	-	0%
Staff Travel - Accomodation	No of nights	2.00	0	0%
Staff Travel - Taxi	Km	542	0	0%
Working from home	kg CO2e	162,683	163	21%
Subtotal - Indirect emissions Scope 3:			196	26%
Total Emissions			764	100%
Reduction Measures				
Prior years Offsets surplus			(21)	
Offsets Purchases			(750)	
Total Net Emissions			(7)	

2.1 Trend Data: Total Emissions

Table 2 provides a summary of the inventory results from 2016-17 to current year 2020-21. 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 2016 – 30 June 2021

Based on the Climate Active initiative and Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard
(formerly the National Carbon Offset Standard)

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Emission Source	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)
Accomodation	-	19	21	18	0
Electricity	480	403	392	383	283
Freight	-	-	-	-	-
ICT & equipment	-	-	-	121	259
Natural Gas	30	23	27	27	26
Office Paper	1	1	1	1	0
Publications/Paper	-	-	-	-	-
Refrigerant Leakage	1	1	1	1	0
Staff Air Travel	152	145	145	95	0
Staff Commute	-	52	175	51	-
Staff Taxi Travel	6	4	3	1	0
Waste	56	53	56	30	9
Water use	3	2	2	1	23
Working from home					163
Total Emissions	729	703	824	729	764
Offsets Measures					
Offsets Purchased	(600)	(700)	(750)	(720)	(750)
Total NET Emissions	(106)	(103)	(30)	(21)	(7)

This reporting period shows a 4.8% increase in total emissions in comparison to the prior. A dramatic fall in electricity emissions was offset by a significant increase in ICT & equipment. Please also note the “Working from home” measure being included for the first time.

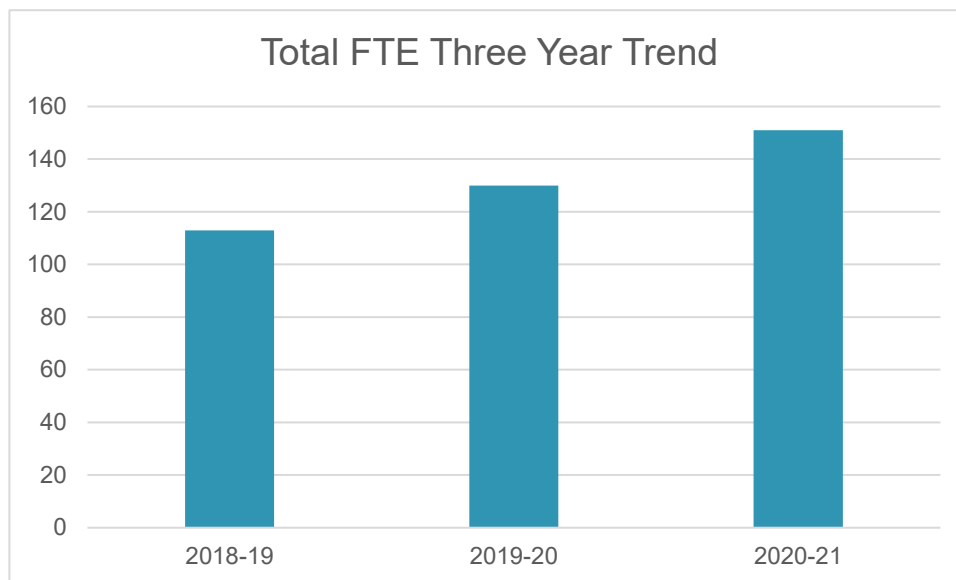
2.2 Trend Data: Emissions per FTE

Table 3: Emissions Inventory Summary per FTE 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2021

Based on the Climate Active initiative and Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard
(formerly the National Carbon Offset Standard)

Emissions Source	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
	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
Accomodation	-	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.00
Electricity	4.60	3.96	3.46	3.01	1.87
Freight	-	-	-	-	-
ICT & equipment	-	-	-	-	1.71
Natural Gas	0.29	0.23	0.24	0.21	0.17
Office Paper	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Publications/Paper	-	-	-	-	-
Refrigerant Leakage	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Staff Air Travel	1.46	1.42	1.27	1.11	0.00
Staff Commute	-	0.51	1.54	1.35	-
Staff Taxi Travel	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.00
Waste	0.54	0.53	0.49	0.43	0.06
Water use	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.16
Working from home	-	-	-	-	1.08
Total Emissions	7.00	6.92	7.26	6.32	5.05

Figure 1: Average FTE of Staff 2018-19 to 2020-21



Despite an increase in overall emissions, emissions per FTE decreased by 20%—down from 6.32 CO₂-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2019-20 to 5.05 CO₂-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2020-21. The emissions per FTE are the lowest recorded since the recalculated base year in 2015-16, despite a 33.6 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. When possible, a preference has been given to purchasing Australian based offsets.

Table 4: ESA Offsets purchased 2013-14 to 2020-21

	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 SILL, 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
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
Year 2019-20	729	-720	Thaa-Nguigarr Carbon Project (Savanna Burning – Indigenous co-benefits)	3,800,966,433 – 3,800,967,152
Prior Year Closing balance		-21		
Year 2020-21	764	-750	Rimba Raya Biodiversity	6979-362135551-362136300-VCU-016-MER-ID-14-674-01012014-30062014-1
Closing balance		-7		

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 Appendices

5.1 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.

