

# Environment Report 2021–22

March 2023

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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 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 ESA's certification can be found on the Australian Government's [Climate Active](#) webpage



## 1.3 Emissions Targets 2021–22

Opportunities to reduce emissions in an office-based environment can be scarce and difficult to identify and implement. ESA's target for 2021–22 was to maintain emissions per FTE at 2020–21 levels.

The company out-performed its emissions target, recording a 12.8% decrease in emissions per FTE—down from 5.05 CO<sub>2</sub>-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2020–21 to 4.40 CO<sub>2</sub>-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2021–22. This represented a third consecutive year of reductions in this metric.

Also, a 17.2% decrease in total emissions from the previous year was recorded. ESA's emissions total for 2021–22 was the lowest total ESA has recorded since it began recording its emissions.

There were reductions in total emissions across almost all categories except waste and staff air travel compared to 2020–21. Much of this reduction can be attributed to less staff using the offices at 440 Collins Street and the eventual departure from the ESA offices towards the end of the recording period.

The Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard requires that emissions relating to home energy use be quantified in the 2021–22 report. The emissions were calculated with Climate Active's Work From Home Calculator using a location based approach per FTE.

The largest share of ESA's emissions remains related to office electricity use and ICT related emissions.

## 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 2021 – 30 June 2022**

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
<b>Direct Emissions - Scope 1</b>				
Refrigerant Leakage	kg CO2e	423	0	0%
ICT & equipment	\$	1,228,063	169	27%
Datacentre Storage	\$	179,689	25	4%
Telecommunications	\$	44,005	7	1%
<b>Subtotal - Direct emissions Scope 1:</b>			<b>201</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Direct &amp; Indirect Emissions - Scope 1, 2 &amp; 3</b>				
Electricity - tenants share & base building	kg CO2e	236,026	236	37%
Natural Gas used on site by landlord as part of base building services	GJ	397	22	3%
<b>Subtotal - Direct &amp; Indirect Emissions - Scope 1, 2 &amp; 3</b>			<b>258</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Indirect Emissions - Scope 3</b>				
Air Transport - Long economy class flights (>3,700km)	pax.km	24,169	4	1%
Air Transport - Short economy class flights (>400km, ≤3,700km)	pax.km	37,504	6	1%
Air Transport - Short business class flights (>400km, ≤3,700km)	pax.km	1,144.24	0	0%
Commingled Recyclable Waste	tonne	1	-	0%
General municipal solid waste	tonne	14	24	4%
Office Paper	kg	-	-	0%
Reticulated Water Supplied by Landlord as part of base building services	kL	616	2	0%
Staff Commute	km	44,834	8	1%
Staff Travel - Accommodation	No of nights	28.00	1	0%
Staff Travel - Taxi	Km	13,814	2	0%
Working from home	kg CO2e	125,548	126	20%
<b>Subtotal - Indirect emissions Scope 3:</b>			<b>173</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Total Emissions</b>			<b>632</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Reduction Measures</b>				
Prior years Offsets surplus			(7)	
Offsets Purchases			(630)	
<b>Total Net Emissions</b>			<b>(5)</b>	

## 2.1 Trend Data: Total Emissions

Table 2 provides a summary of the inventory results from 2017–18 to the current year 2021–22. 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 2017 – 30 June 2022**

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

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Emission Source	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)	CO2-e (tonnes)
Accommodation	19	21	18	0	1
Electricity	403	392	383	283	236
Freight	-	-	-	-	-
ICT & equipment	-	-	121	259	200
Natural Gas	23	27	27	26	22
Office Paper	1	1	1	0	-
Publications/Paper	-	-	-	-	-
Refrigerant Leakage	1	1	1	0	0
Staff Air Travel	145	145	95	0	11
Staff Commute	52	175	51	-	10
Staff Taxi Travel	4	3	1	0	-
Waste	53	56	30	9	24
Water use	2	2	1	23	2
Working from home				163	126
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>632</b>
<b>Offsets Measures</b>					
Offsets Purchased	(700)	(750)	(720)	(750)	(630)
<b>Total NET Emissions</b>	<b>(103)</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(5)</b>

There were reductions in total emissions across almost all categories except waste and staff air travel compared to 2020–21.

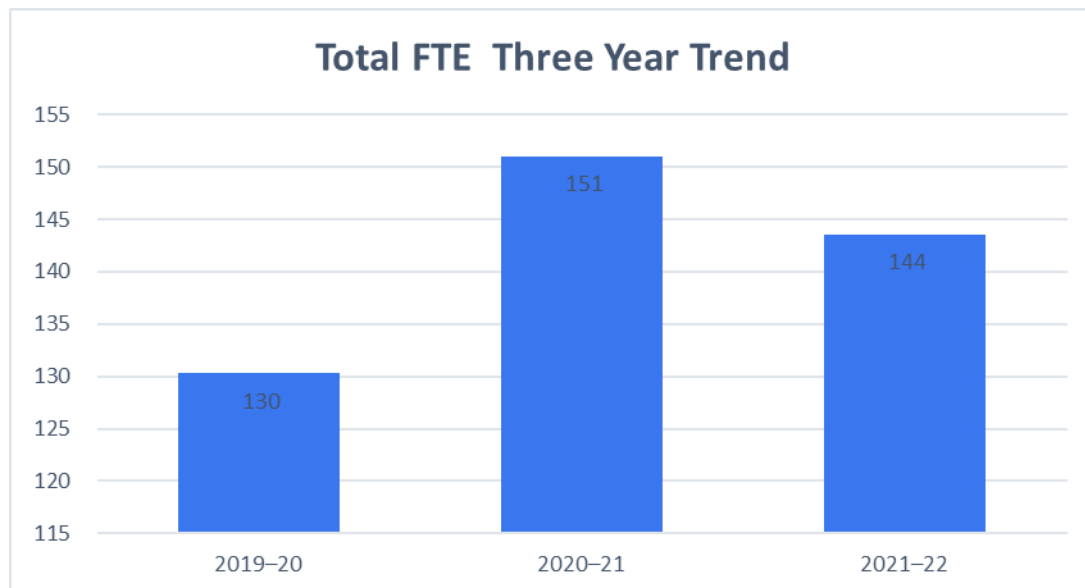
## 2.2 Trend Data: Emissions per FTE

**Table 3: Emissions Inventory Summary per FTE 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2022**

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

Emissions Source	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	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
Accommodation	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.00	0.01
Electricity	3.96	3.46	3.01	1.87	1.64
Freight	-	-	-	-	-
ICT & equipment	-	-	-	1.71	1.40
Natural Gas	0.23	0.24	0.21	0.17	0.15
Office Paper	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	-
Publications/Paper	-	-	-	-	-
Refrigerant Leakage	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Staff Air Travel	1.42	1.27	1.11	0.00	0.07
Staff Commute	0.51	1.54	1.35	-	0.07
Staff Taxi Travel	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.00	-
Waste	0.53	0.49	0.43	0.06	0.17
Water use	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.16	0.01
Working from home	-	-	-	1.08	0.87
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>6.92</b>	<b>7.26</b>	<b>6.32</b>	<b>5.05</b>	<b>4.40</b>

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



Emissions per FTE decreased by 12.8%—down from 5.05 CO<sub>2</sub>-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2020–21 to 4.40 CO<sub>2</sub>-e (tonnes) per FTE in 2021–22. The emissions per FTE are the lowest recorded since the recalculated base year in 2015–16, despite an increase in FTE over that period.

### 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 recognised 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 2021–22**

	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 (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
Year 2020-21	764	-750	Rimba Raya Biodiversity	6979-362135551-362136300-VCU-016-MER-ID-14-674-01012014-30062014-1
<b>Prior Year Closing balance</b>		<b>-7</b>		
Year 2021-22	632	-630	North Kimberley Pastoral Lease Carbon Abatement	8,343,218,636 – 8,343,219,265
<b>Closing balance</b>		<b>-5</b>		



## 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.

