

Measuring Your Carbon Footprint

What is a Carbon Footprint

A 'carbon footprint' is a measure of the carbon dioxide equivalent emissions attributable to a particular activity. It is commonly used at an individual, household or organisation, product and service level. There are a variety of methods to measure a carbon footprint, principally differing in what aspects of the Life Cycle of a product or experience is to be included in the footprint. This is typically referred to as the 'scope' of the footprint.

Scope 1, 2 and 3 Emissions

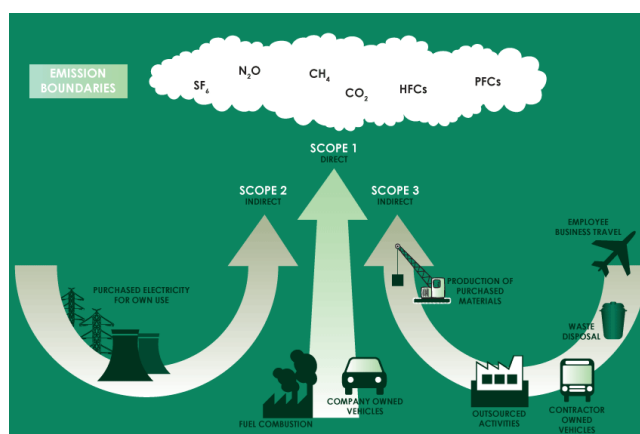
Figure 1 shows the source of scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

Scope 1 – *Direct Emissions* are those created by a person, household or organisation's own means, from sources that are owned or controlled by that person, household or organisation. These can include emissions from its combustion facilities (e.g. boilers, furnaces, burners, turbines), its vehicle fleet, and from its physical or chemical processes.

Scope 2 – *Indirect Energy Emissions* are greenhouse emissions created by a person, household or organisation's use of purchased energy

Scope 3 – *Other Indirect Emissions* are those greenhouse emissions which occur as a result of a person, household or organisation's activities, but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the person, household or organisation. Examples include emissions associated with the extraction, manufacture and production of purchased materials, business-related travel and transport in vehicles not owned or controlled by the company

Figure 1: Scopes 1, 2 and 3 Emissions



How Can Operators Effectively Measure Their Carbon Footprint

There are a variety of programs available to operators to measure their Carbon Footprint:

- [National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System Calculator](#), produced by the Australian Government
- [ClimateSmart Living Calculator](#), produced by the Queensland Government
- [One Degree Carbon Calculator](#), operated by News Limited
- [Carbon Cops Calculator](#), produced by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation

A number of certification programs will also help to measure and compare your carbon footprint. See the 'Benchmarking and Certification Programs' factsheet for more information.

Choosing the Right Carbon Emission Tool

There are a number of methods available for operators to measure their carbon footprint. Seek a system that is consistent, compliant and transparent:

- Ensure the calculators are consistent with the Federal Governments Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme – National Greenhouse Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS)
- Understand the calculation of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions and which are required by your suppliers, clients and the regulators to be compliant; and

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Factsheet 2.2: Measuring your Carbon Footprint

- Choose a program where the information used to generate the 'carbon footprint' is publicly available and fully transparent.