



**2018**

**Environment and  
Sustainability Report Card**



**Save the Children**

# SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change and environmental degradation undermine children's rights, compound existing inequalities and threaten the achievement of intergenerational justice.

Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, which have direct impacts on children and their communities, and undermine longer term sustainable development. Environmental degradation impacts on the very fabric of children's lives by disrupting food and water availability and by hampering access to basic services.

As an international organisation that operates in over 116 countries we:

- recognise that all our activities have an impact on the environment;
- are committed to managing and reducing any negative impact on the environment from our programs and operations;
- view this as fundamental to creating a more equitable and sustainable world for children.

Save the Children seeks to embed practices focussed on resource sustainability and to prioritise initiatives that are enablers for future strategic sustainability across Save The Children Australia's policies, practices and operations.

Our environmental sustainability initiatives focus on four key themes and our progress against these is described below.

## 1. SUPPLIERS & OPERATIONS

Reducing our environmental impact through the selection of our suppliers and the way we manage our operations and support functions.

## 2. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Improving environmental performance through building 'top down' and 'bottom up' commitment of staff across all departments.

## 3. REPORTING & BENCHMARKING

Improving environmental performance through providing timely and accurate feedback on progress to managers, the Executive, Board and external stakeholders.

## 4. PROJECT DESIGN & DELIVERY

Improving environmental performance through incorporating good environmental principles and our Project Environment Management tool into the delivery of all of our international projects.

### 1. Suppliers & Operations

Improvements in the environmental sustainability of our suppliers and operation in 2018 was focused on our retail operations. Many new initiatives were implemented in our efforts to reduce our environmental impact. These include reducing our energy consumption through replacing all lighting in our shops in South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia with LED bulbs. Implementing e-waste recycling in Vitoria, and South Australia through a local organisation who use the unwanted electronics to teach youth how to repair electronic equipment and safely and appropriately recycle the unwanted and leftover materials combining skills creating with recycling. We have eliminated the use and sale of single use plastic bags nationwide in our stores, replacing bags with Boomerang Bags, Recycled Denim Bangs and recycled cotton 'Eco Bags'.

We estimate that through the sale of nearly half a million units of donated clothing through our stores we have saved approximately 145 million liters of water that would have been used to produce new cloths. Finally, through our stores we have prevented 215,000 books from going to landfill through their sale.

In addition, a review of our fleet operations in 2017 began a move away from owned vehicles to leased vehicles. This move has enabled us to maintain a fleet of modern vehicles with the latest technologies to lower drive efficiencies and lower emissions. In 2018 we have continued update our vehicle leases and dispose of older fleet models. Although our fleet emissions have increased in 2018, this is due to increased program activities and kilometres travelled rather than inefficient vehicles. We expect our emission per kilometre to have reduced over 2018.

### 2. Employee Engagement

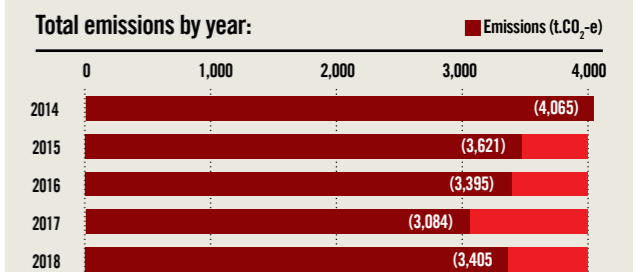
Save the Children Australia is committed to engaging its staff in a meaningful and authentic way. An ethical procurement group was established in 2017 and ran into mid-2018. The group was established out of a desire to review our procurement policies and practice from an environment perspective and to develop and implement best practice standards for reduced environmental impact. Staff from each department were represented to discuss existing practices, challenges and potential solutions.

Through the work of this group a number of initiatives at our Head Office site were introduced include composting of kitchen waste, battery recycling, ethical procurement of toilet, tissue paper and paper towels, and the use of rewashed tea towels in our kitchen areas.

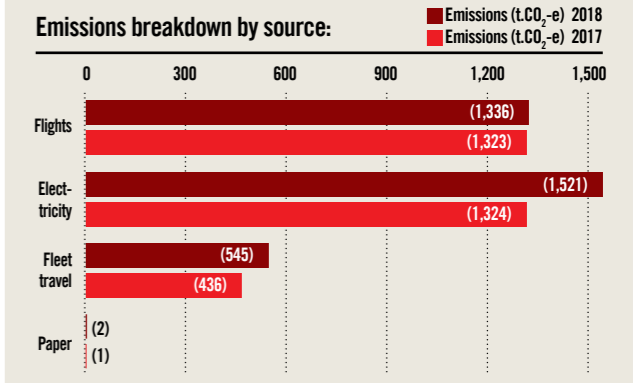
### 3. Reporting & Benchmarking

Since we began measuring and reporting our greenhouse gas emissions in 2014, we have seen a 16% reduction in total emissions. Compared to 2017, our 2018 emissions have increased by 10%, largely due to increased electricity consumption from business growth, increased total number of sites and fleet emissions due to increased programming in remote locations.

In 2018 Save the Children's Australian grant programming income grew by 29%, and within this was growth in programming for remote regions. Although our emissions have increased year on year, they have increased to support programming efforts in line with Save the Children's mission.



The figures reported below<sup>1</sup> comprise emissions from Save the Children Australia's offices, travel activities and project and retail sites in Australia.

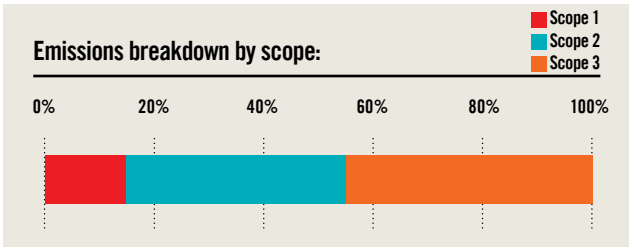
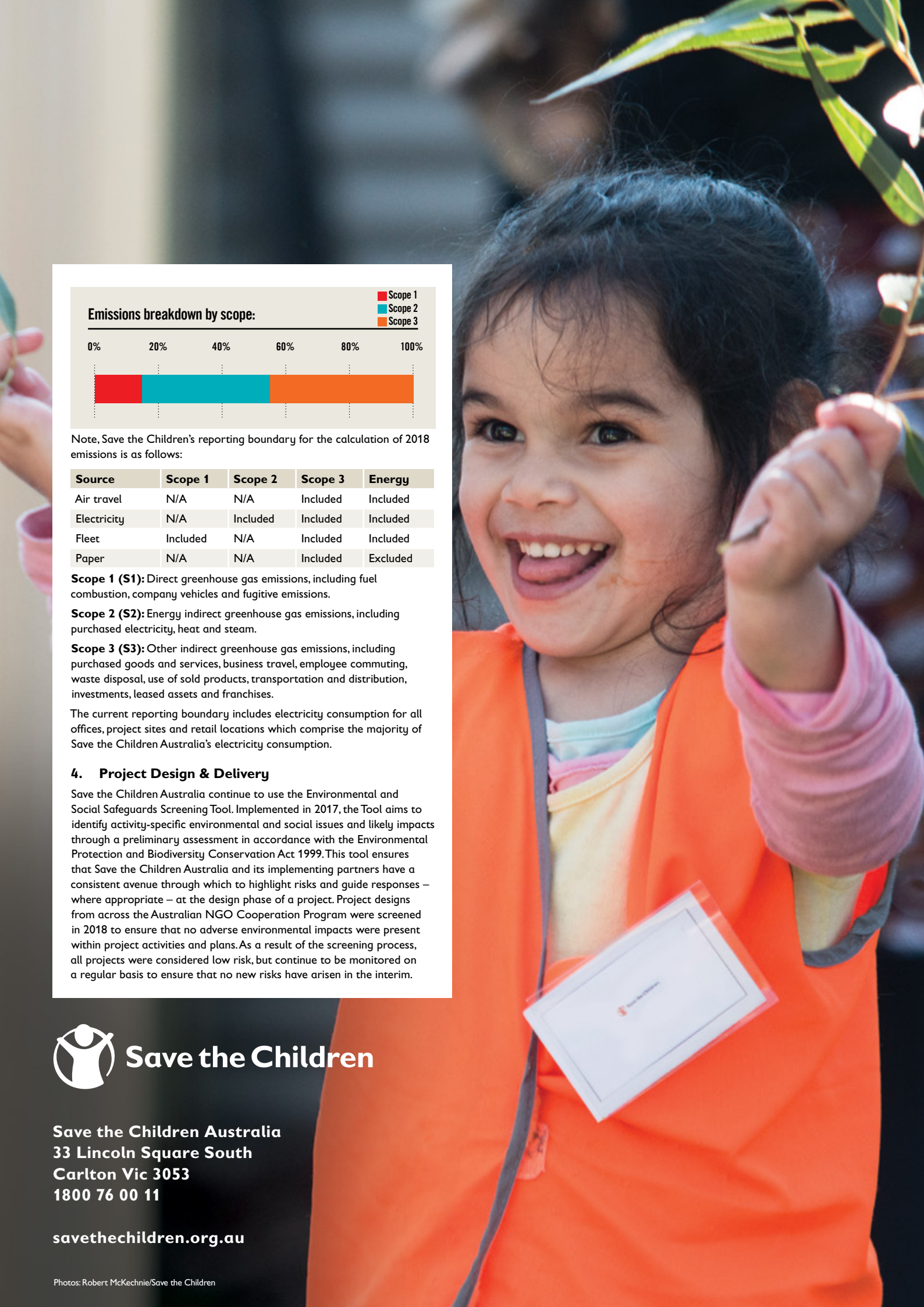


Despite efforts to reduce the amount of electricity we use and the increasing use of videoconferencing facilities as an alternative to face-to-face meetings, electricity use and air travel remain the most significant contributors to our emissions.

- In 2018, total emissions and miles travelled from flights remained relatively steady as compared to the prior year.
- Emissions from electricity consumption have increased by 15% between 2017 and 2018, largely due to an increased number of sites (6 new retail stores and 9 new programming sites).
- Fleet emissions have increased by 25%, due to an increase in kilometres travelled. This is driven by an increase in programming to support the most marginalised children, particularly in remote regions (QLD & NT).
- Paper emissions have increased as we merged with child safeguarding enterprise, Child Wise. In 2018, training materials were printed. This process is currently being reviewed to align with our paperless office environment.

We will continue to look for opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of our travel and electricity usage, however, we also recognise that travel and programming sites have and will continue to play an essential part of how we deliver much needed services to the most deprived and marginalised children.





Note, Save the Children’s reporting boundary for the calculation of 2018 emissions is as follows:

| Source      | Scope 1  | Scope 2  | Scope 3  | Energy   |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Air travel  | N/A      | N/A      | Included | Included |
| Electricity | N/A      | Included | Included | Included |
| Fleet       | Included | N/A      | Included | Included |
| Paper       | N/A      | N/A      | Included | Excluded |

**Scope 1 (S1):** Direct greenhouse gas emissions, including fuel combustion, company vehicles and fugitive emissions.

**Scope 2 (S2):** Energy indirect greenhouse gas emissions, including purchased electricity, heat and steam.

**Scope 3 (S3):** Other indirect greenhouse gas emissions, including purchased goods and services, business travel, employee commuting, waste disposal, use of sold products, transportation and distribution, investments, leased assets and franchises.

The current reporting boundary includes electricity consumption for all offices, project sites and retail locations which comprise the majority of Save the Children Australia’s electricity consumption.

**4. Project Design & Delivery**

Save the Children Australia continue to use the Environmental and Social Safeguards Screening Tool. Implemented in 2017, the Tool aims to identify activity-specific environmental and social issues and likely impacts through a preliminary assessment in accordance with the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. This tool ensures that Save the Children Australia and its implementing partners have a consistent avenue through which to highlight risks and guide responses – where appropriate – at the design phase of a project. Project designs from across the Australian NGO Cooperation Program were screened in 2018 to ensure that no adverse environmental impacts were present within project activities and plans. As a result of the screening process, all projects were considered low risk, but continue to be monitored on a regular basis to ensure that no new risks have arisen in the interim.



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Photos: Robert McKechnie/Save the Children