



**2017**

# **Environment and Sustainability Report Card**



**Save the Children**

Climate change and environmental degradation undermine children's rights, they compound existing inequalities and threaten the achievement of intergenerational justice. Climate change increases the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, which not only have a direct impact on children and their communities but it undermines longer-term sustainable development. Environmental degradation hampers access to basic services – disrupting food and water availability – which impacts on the very fabric of children's lives.

As an international organisation that operates in more than 117 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.

### OUR PLAN FOR STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY

In 2016, we adopted our three-year Environmental Sustainability 2016–18 Strategy and Implementation Plan (below). This plan seeks to embed practices that focus on resource sustainability and prioritise our initiatives. It will enable future strategic sustainability across Save the Children Australia's policies, practices and operations.

### OUR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AIMS



Reduce our organisational carbon footprint.



Reduce the environmental impact of our development projects.



Build evidence from our programming to provide support, action and influence with our stakeholders and partners.

### WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK OUR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES FOCUS ON FOUR KEY THEMES:



#### 1. Suppliers and operations

Reducing our environmental impact through the selection of 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 organisation-wide.



#### 3. Reporting and benchmarking

Providing timely and accurate feedback on progress to managers, the Executive team, Board and external stakeholders to improve environmental performance.



#### 4. Project design and delivery

Incorporating good environmental principles – including our Project Environment Management tool – in all projects to improve environmental performance.

## OUR PROGRESS

### 1. Suppliers and operations

To meet our requirements under the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Implementation Plan, an Ethical Procurement Working Group was formed in 2017 to produce an organisational ethical procurement policy. The group reviews all Save the Children Australia-purchased goods and services and ensures they are ethically sourced, purchased from supply sources that maintain ethical standards throughout their supply chains, and ensures that all processes relating to the development of a product or service do no harm to children. The group is also accountable for ensuring compliance with the [Children's Rights and Business Principles](#).

The group has representation from across the organisation, with our Chief Financial Officer acting as the Executive sponsor. Representation includes: Fundraising and Partnerships, Policy and Advocacy, Marketing and Innovation, Supporter Care, Finance and Support Services, Australian Programs and International Programs. To date, the Supporter Engagement representative has led an organisation-wide audit of products and the formulation of an ethical procurement policy is underway. The aim is to have Executive and Board sign off for 2018–19.

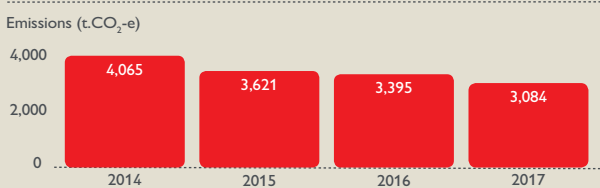
### 2. Employee engagement

Save the Children Australia is committed to engaging its staff in a meaningful and authentic way. The rationale behind the development of the Ethical Procurement Working Group was twofold. To develop and implement best practice standards for our procurement teams and to ensure each department is accurately represented to discuss existing practices, challenges and potential solutions. The working group aims to support organisation-wide environment performance targets. It also aims to drive internal behavioural change. Our Policy and Advocacy department will drive these changes, ensuring employees across the organisation have the necessary advice and information regarding sustainable practices. In addition, it will identify and highlight the existing barriers to making environmental and sustainability improvements across the organisation.

### 3. Reporting and benchmarking

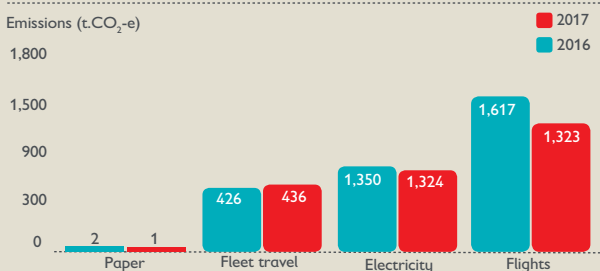
Since we began measuring and reporting our greenhouse gas emissions in 2014, we have seen a 24% reduction in total emissions.

#### Total emissions by year



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

#### Emissions breakdown by source



Most of our emissions continue to be derived from staff travel associated with our project activities and the remainder from energy used in our offices.

#### Travel emissions

In 2016–17, there was a decrease in the following emissions:

- An 18% decline of total emissions from flights. This reflects our efforts to reduce project activities requiring travel, as well as a changing mix of international and domestic travel. The introduction of technology to assist collaborative work also helped reduce the need for some travel.
- A reduction of almost 9% total flight miles travelled. In 2017 there were 5.038 million miles travelled, as compared to 5.526 million flight miles in 2016.

While there was a 26% decline of international miles travelled between 2016 and 2017, a 38% increase in domestic miles. As a portion of total travel, domestic travel miles increased from 27% in 2016 to 41% in 2017.

We will continue to look for opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of our travel activities. However, we also recognise that travel has – and will – continue to play an essential part of how we deliver much-needed services to the most deprived and marginalised children.

#### Electricity emissions

Emissions from Save the Children Australia's electricity consumption have declined slightly between 2016 and 2017:

- During 2017, the total number of Save the Children Australia's domestic programming and retail locations were essentially unchanged as compared to the previous year.
- We were unable to report electricity consumption for 52 sites in 2017. This was due to the sites being small facilities, often located in shared premises and/or where electricity costs were included as part of the gross rental expense. This represents a small decrease in the number of sites that we could report electricity consumption between 2016–17.

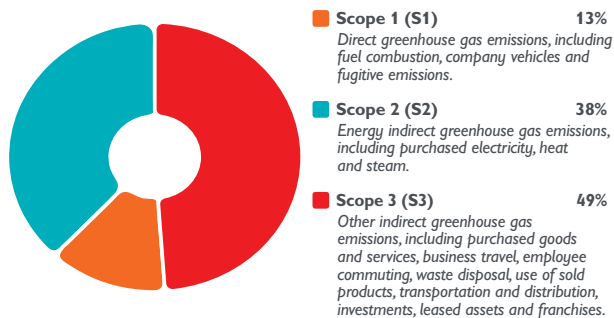
Save the Children Australia moved into a new head office in late 2016, meaning we are now directly responsible for electricity consumption associated with the air conditioning system at our largest facility. In past years, as a tenant in a multi-tenant office building, we were unable to identify our electricity consumption associated with the use of the building air conditioning system. As a result, air conditioning emissions have been included in our 2017 reported emissions for the first time.

Despite a net increase in the scope of the electricity data we are now capturing, our continued focus on sustainability initiatives has enabled us to contain, and slightly reduce, our emissions from electricity consumption.

Further, despite a 24% increase in the size of our motor vehicle fleet, we have kept the emissions from our fleet travel essentially flat between years.

<sup>1</sup> Reported flight activity excludes a limited portion of international travel activity for which data was not accessible. Further, it was not possible to capture electricity consumption data for some of our smaller program sites that operate in a shared space with other service providers and where we are not the primary tenant. Data presented for paper relates only to head office paper usage and does not include paper used for marketing purposes or by other sites. We estimate that the omission of this data would not have a noticeable impact on total reported emissions.

Emissions breakdown by scope



The current reporting boundary includes electricity consumption for all offices<sup>2</sup>, project sites and retail locations that comprise the majority of Save the Children Australia’s electricity consumption.

In preparing the 2017 greenhouse gas inventory, a portion of electricity consumption was estimated due to the accessibility of information. The estimated portion represented approximately 3.3% of electricity consumption (a small increase on the 2% of estimation required in 2016).

Note, Save the Children Australia’s reporting boundary for the calculation of 2017 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

4. Project design and delivery

Save the Children Australia recently adopted and implemented an Environmental and Social Safeguards Screening Tool (based on a revision of our earlier Program Environment Management System). 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.

This new system was put in place in early 2017 and project designs from across the Australian NGO Cooperation Program were screened to ensure that no adverse environmental impacts were present within project activities and plans.

Because of the screening process, all projects were considered low risk, but continue to be monitored on a regular basis to ensure no new risks have arisen in the interim.

<sup>2</sup> Except for some small offices and program sites where we are not the primary tenant and are unable to collect data or where rent and utilities are combined and hence we do not have access to the disaggregated data for measurement. As at the end of 2017, the number of sites for which we were unable to capture and report electricity data had increased to 52. These sites are small and do not have a noticeable impact on total emissions.

