



**2019**

# **Environment and Sustainability Report Card**



**Save the Children**

# SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Children around the globe are being impacted by sudden and protracted crises linked to climate change. Extreme weather events like bushfires, floods and droughts are exacerbating existing challenges like food crises and epidemics, and are leading to major changes in migration patterns, food production, water availability and disease prevalence. Children are the least responsible for climate change and yet they will bear most of the consequences. But far from being passive victims, children around the world are raising their voices and demanding action.

2019 saw the rise of a global youth movement for climate action. Young people all over the world are calling on their governments to commit to taking science-based action to prevent further escalation of the climate crisis. The next generation of decision makers continue to inspire and remind us as an organisation - operating for the rights of children - to continue to strengthen our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint and to be responsible environmental citizens. Save the Children Australia is proud to support youth climate activists in Australia and around the world.

As an international organisation that operates in over 120 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; and
- view this as fundamental to creating a more equitable and sustainable world for children.

Save the Children Australia continues to identify opportunities to embed practices focused on resource sustainability and to prioritise initiatives that are enablers for future strategic sustainability across our 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 by 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 System into the delivery of all our international projects.



## 1. SUPPLIERS & OPERATIONS

The expiration of the 2016-2018 Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Implementation Plan has directed our focus in 2019 to re-assess the environmental sustainability baseline at Save the Children Australia nationally. Commonplace initiatives from the Head Office to State and program locations to retail stores continue with:

- recycling printer cartridges and other office consumables;
- replacing light globes with LED lights;
- scheduling lights and heaters to be turned off overnight;
- use of reusable bags in retail;
- e-waste recycling;
- regular servicing of air-conditioners to ensure maximum efficiency and minimum CFC pollutants released into the atmosphere; and
- green waste disposal for food scraps and in some programs, reducing food waste in partnership with SecondBite, a leading national food rescue organisation.

Ethical procurement which had a springboard in 2017 has seen parts of the organisation procuring:

- bio-degradable products across WA programs;
- paper products from ethical supplier, Who Gives A Crap, a B Corp certified company, across a number of State offices and programs; and
- Fair Trade products.

Standard replacement of fleet vehicles with more efficient vehicles continues.

An added dimension that will be investigated in 2020 is the replacement of fossil fuel vehicles with hybrid vehicles in our fleet.

## 2. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Employee engagement was most pronounced in 2019 with the student-led climate strikes in our capital cities. Save the Children Australia staff were supported to attend these rallies where these took place.

Staff were also called to show their commitment to preserving and protecting the environment with the establishment of a new and broader-reaching Environmental Sustainability Committee in the second half of 2019. A cross-section of staff from all States are represented on this committee with a focus on both the home and work environment.

Individual State offices and operations have also placed recycling and environmental issues on their regular team agendas. An innovative idea seeded in a State office of an in-house op shop available to clients and staff alike to minimise spend and buying new.

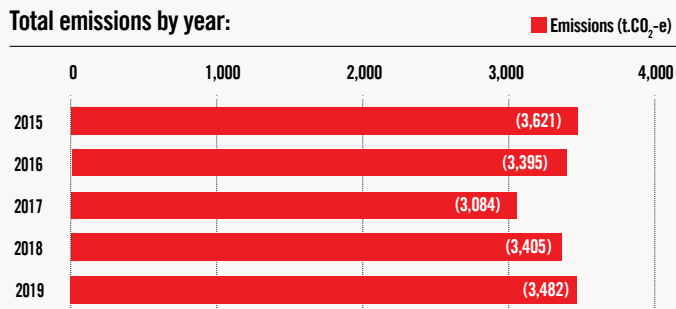
### 3. REPORTING & BENCHMARKING

In 2019, Save the Children Australia's programming income grew by 6% along with a staggering year on year growth of 32% coming from our Retail network growth and scale up of our social enterprises' operations. Although our emissions have slightly increased over the last three years, they have increased much less than our rate of growth in programs and operations which support our efforts towards achieving Save the Children's mission.

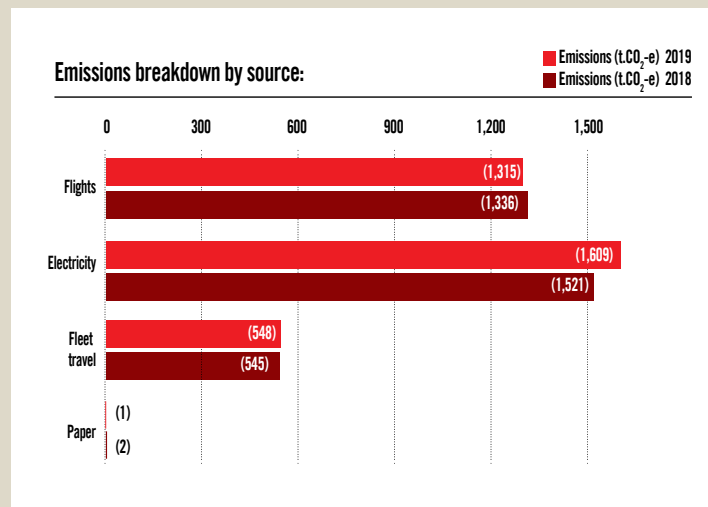
#### TOTAL EMISSIONS BY YEAR

2018 saw a growth in programming for remote regions. In December 2019, the Retail business had an expansion of 16 new retail stores and a warehouse in NSW with a marginal increase in our emissions noted below.

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



#### EMISSION BREAKDOWN BY SOURCE



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

- In 2019, total emissions and kilometres travelled from flights slightly reduced compared to 2018.
- Emissions from electricity consumption have increased by 9% between 2018 and 2019, largely due to the acquisition of the 16 new retail stores and a warehouse in NSW.
- Fleet emissions have remained largely in line with 2018.
- Paper emissions have reduced as we continue to adopt paperless practices in our Head Office.

We 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. In 2020 and beyond, Save the Children Australia have committed to offset 100% of its flights in efforts to reduce the impact of flight travel on the environment.

We continue to look for opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of our total emissions from energy and fleet in programming and operations.

<sup>1</sup> Note 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.

## PROJECT DESIGN & DELIVERY

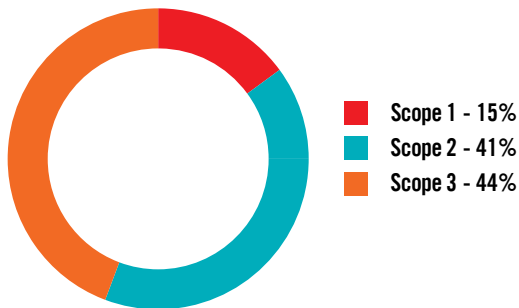
In late 2019, Save the Children Australia became the first development NGO to be accredited by the Green Climate Fund. Save the Children Australia's accreditation to the Green Climate Fund, which was more than three years in the making, allows us to partner with the countries hardest hit by climate change to develop and implement large-scale projects to build children and communities' resilience.

The Green Climate Fund is the world's largest dedicated climate change financing mechanism – aiming to help generate transformational change in the way developing countries address climate change. We will leverage our significant global network of specialist technical advisers working in climate change, disaster risk reduction, health, water and sanitation, livelihoods, agriculture and food security to develop and deliver programs that help vulnerable children and communities achieve sustainable development in a changing climate.

During our accreditation, we revised and updated our Environmental and Social Safeguards Screening Tool, based on international best practice. The tool continues to ensure 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. All Green Climate Fund projects developed by Save the Children Australia will utilise this tool as a fundamental component of the design process. All projects screen with the tool to date have been considered low risk, but they continue to be monitored to ensure that any risks arising are managed effectively and efficiently.

## EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN BY SCOPE

Emissions breakdown by scope:



Save the Children's reporting boundary for the calculation of 2019 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.





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Cover image: Robert McKechnie / Save the Children Australia