



CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Carbon Footprint Report

2020-2021

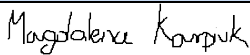

ACH Consulting Ltd



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Rev #	Author		Reviewer	
	Name	Signature	Name	Signature
1	Magdalena Karpiuk		Debbie Keal	

ACH CONSULTING LTD

3 Kawakawa Place, Westgate

PO Box 84-287, Westgate 0657

T: 09 839 7050 E: info@achconsulting.co.nz

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Executive Summary

ACH Consulting has produced the following Carbon Footprint for the April 2020 - March 2021 financial year. A carbon footprint is a valuable use of data available within the business to quantify carbon emissions during a specific year. This is then related to our previous years to inform trends and analysis.

ACH emitted a total of 103.50 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) for the financial year of 2020-2021, equivalent to approximately 3.17 tCO₂e per Full - Time Equivalent (FTE) employee. This is a decrease of 13% in last year's carbon dioxide emission per full-time equivalent employee. A large contributor to the decrease from the previous year is due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and travel restrictions, as well as replacing a fleet vehicle with a hybrid model.

During the 2020-21 financial year, carbon emissions due to transport were the largest contributor at 92% of total emissions. This is on-trend with previous reports and continues to be an area to focus on.

This report contains recommendations of ways ACH can work to reduce emissions for transport which was the primary leading carbon source. Some of these recommendations and others include:

- When upgrading vehicles investing in Electric Vehicles (EV) or Hybrid's as a low-carbon alternative.
- Minimise vehicle use by using phone calls, video calls or email where possible.

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1. Introduction

1.1 What is a Carbon Footprint?

A Carbon footprint is a total amount of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emitted, typically expressed as tonnes of carbon dioxide, by the activities of an individual or organization. The information collected over time helps us to understand trends, inform management planning and provide a strategy for the organisation to improve their sustainability performance through the reduction of their carbon footprint.

1.2 About ACH Consulting

ACH Consulting (ACH) is a structural and civil engineering consultancy based in Auckland. Our main services include structural engineering, public infrastructure, forensic engineering, land development, and stormwater, wastewater and water supply services. For the 2020-21 year, ACH employed approximately 33 full-time equivalent staff (FTE's).

ACH wishes to understand their carbon footprint better and inform management planning to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to reducing their environmental impacts. ACH's responsibility to measure and understand its carbon footprint allows it to identify opportunities for improvement and to take actions to lower its emissions. This supports our ongoing commitment to meeting the ISO 14001: 2015 standard, and our commitment to ensure our customers can make an informed choice when engaging consultants. This is especially true for our clients with a large social responsibility, such as our local Government.

1.3 Scope and Boundary of the Carbon Footprint

ACH's carbon footprint was calculated for the 2020-2021 year and compared against the carbon footprint of preceding years and the base year of 2015-16.

The boundary of the footprint includes all of ACH's operations. However, the scope was limited to available data such as vehicle use (company and personal), air travel, taxi travel, landfill waste and electricity use.

The operational boundary for ACH's carbon footprint report includes the following:

- Scope 1: Transport in company vehicles and employee-owned vehicles
- Scope 2: Purchased electricity used within the building.
- Scope 3: Domestic air travel, taxi fares and office waste data.

1.4 Methodology

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol (www.ghgprotocol.org) has informed the development of ACH's carbon calculator and the reporting process. Table 1 identifies the various datasets for ACH that were entered in the carbon calculator and the emission factors used.

GHG Protocol Scope	Transaction type	Unit	Emission factors
Scope 1 - Gross direct emissions	Company car (Diesel)	Litre	0.00269
	Company car (Petrol)	Litre	0.00245
	Personal mileage	Km	0.00231
Scope 2 - Gross indirect emissions	Purchased electricity	kWh	0.000138
Scope 3 - Gross other indirect emissions	Taxi fares	\$	0.000102
	Domestic air travel	Km	0.00016
	Waste disposal	Kg	0.00184

Table 1 - Datasets used in ACH 2020-21 Carbon Footprint Report

2. ACH Carbon Footprint

2.1 Data Summary

ACH emitted a total of 103.50 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) for the financial year of 2020-2021, equivalent to approximately 3.17 tCO₂e per Full - Time Equivalent (FTE) employee, based on the average of 33 FTE's for the year.

Table 2 below shows a breakdown of emissions by source. The greatest proportion of emissions resulted from car usage for travel to project sites and related meetings. Staff mileage was the greatest emissions source during this financial year. This was due to COVID-19 safety requirements; staff were more reliant on using personal vehicles to travel as carpooling and sharing of fleet vehicles was not possible for extended periods of time. The next largest contributor to emissions was electricity, followed by negligible contributions from landfill waste.

Emission Source	Total (tCO2e)	Percentage of Emissions (%)
Company car- Diesel	28.34	27%
Company car - Petrol	27.03	26%
Staff Mileage	39.02	38%
Electricity	7.76	7%
Air travel - domestic	0	0%
Landfill waste	0.01	1%
Taxi	0.008	0%

Table 2 - Emissions by Source

The analysis of total emissions per month is illustrated in Figure 1 below. May 2020 yielded the greatest total emissions over this period at 12.46 tCO₂e. May 2020 was a transition back to work from full Level 4 covid restrictions, but with strict social distancing measures. This meant carpooling and sharing of vehicles was not a possibility and so we saw a large increase in personal vehicle use. Gradually emissions lessened over the rest of the period and ended at 9.45 tCO₂e in March 2021. In contrast, April 2020 was a period of Level 4 restrictions and construction stopped. With staff predominantly working from home, and only particular emergency works personnel able to travel, our carbon emissions for that month were significantly below average.

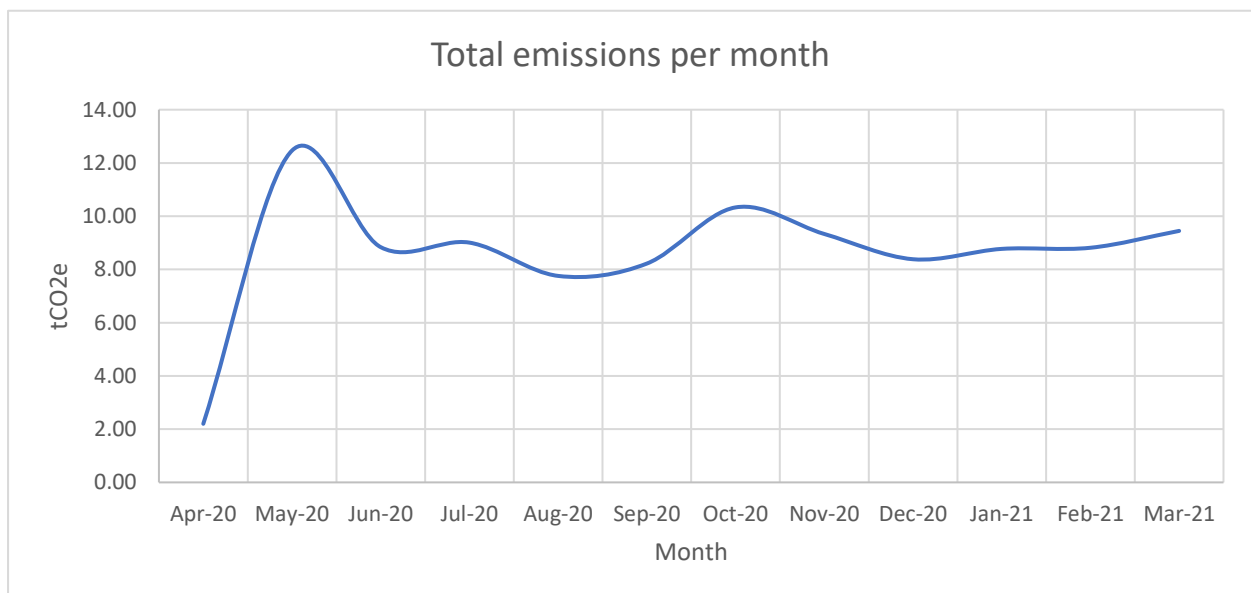


Figure 1: Total emissions per month

2.2 Improvement Initiatives

Our main improvement initiatives currently focus on reducing our emissions from travel, as this is the area where we can make the largest impact. We have committed to focusing on lower emissions vehicles such as hybrid and electric options when upgrading our fleet, and requiring staff to use these over their own personal cars wherever possible.

We have also committed to reducing the amount of unnecessary travel for meetings. Covid has taught us that so much can be achieved through video conferencing capabilities and we have established systems in-house to enable this method of coordination to be used most regularly. This should reduce the number of trips being made.

We will still have a level of unavoidable travel for site inspections and investigative work, which at this stage will remain as part of usual day to day business.

2.3 Comparison between the base year and previous year

Financial year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
tCO2e	122.84	108.06	105.87	109.13	129.69	103.50
Staff (FTE)	27	28	30	30	31	33
tCO2e/staff (FTE)	4.48	3.86	3.5	3.67	4.18	3.17

Table 3 - tCO2e per staff - Comparison

ACH emitted a total of 103.50 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO2e) for the 2020-21 financial year with an average of 33 FTE's resulting in 3.17 tonnes of carbon dioxide per FTE. This is the lowest year for emissions recorded to date, at the same time as being the highest year for FTEs, though we must acknowledge the part Covid restrictions have played in these results. We continue to trend in the right direction.

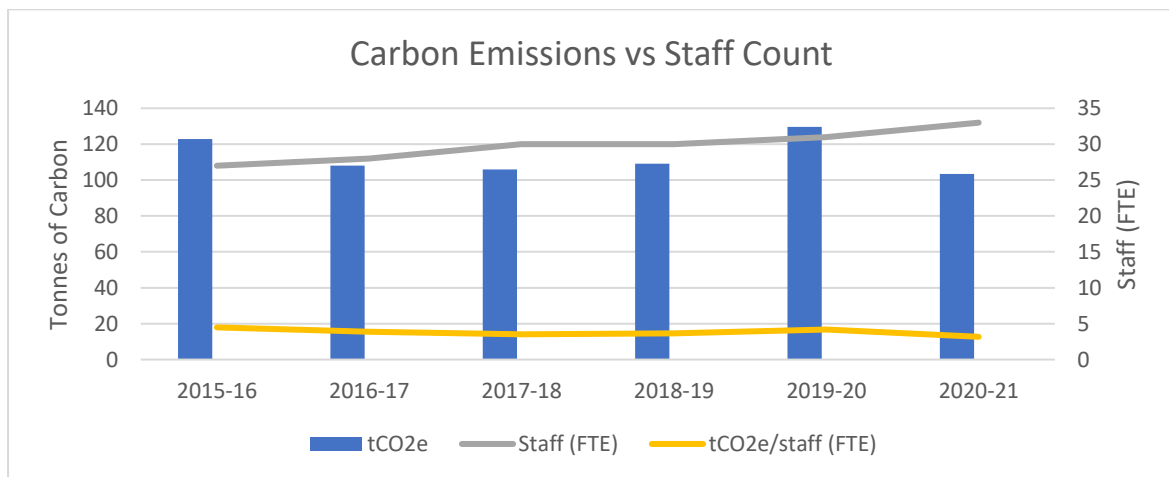


Figure 2: Carbon Emissions vs Staff count

3. Recommendations

ACH Consulting continues to implement initiatives to improve its carbon footprint. We have implemented strategies to reduce our emissions and monitor and improve the accuracy of recording emissions.

As ACH work towards becoming carbon neutral a continued focus on improving the efficiency of our vehicle fleet, reducing waste and improving the accuracy of total emissions tracking has seen positive impacts on our carbon footprint.

To continue improving in this area, and to work towards carbon neutrality, ACH need to continue to record and report on carbon emissions regularly. Sharing with staff carbon footprint goals and progress towards carbon neutrality can encourage staff to contribute to ideas for improvement.

3.1 Further strategies

As detailed in this report, the ACH activity with the largest footprint is transport, making up 92% of total emissions. Ideas for reducing car emissions are:

- When upgrading vehicles, invest in Electric Vehicles (EV) or Hybrid's as a low-carbon alternative. Converting all fleet to EV's can be a long term goal for ACH as it will significantly decrease the number of carbon emissions from transport.
- Minimise company car use by using technology, such as phone calls and video calls to replace face to face meetings. This decreases gas emissions but also improve efficiencies in time management.
- Properly maintained cars can improve fuel economy and gas emissions, therefore, ensuring regular services for vehicles, inflated tyres and clean oil and air filters.
- Keeping tyres at optimum inflation can reduce fuel consumption by 4% (EECA)
- Tyre brands which meet the EECA Energy Wise Standard can reduce fuel consumption by 7%.

Within the office recommendations include:

- Encourage the use of reusable coffee cups, lunch boxes and stationery.
- Encourage staff to print only when necessary.