

Summary of carboNZero certification: Ministry for the Environment - World Environment Day Core Events



Introduction¹ – World Environment Day is observed every year on 5 June in more than 100 countries, and is one of the most popular days on the United Nations calendar. In 2008 Wellington was the nominated host city.

World Environment Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness and promote action on national environment issues. The theme for World Environment Day 2008 was climate change, with a focus on moving towards a low carbon economy and lifestyle. “Kick the Habit” (the ‘carbon’ habit) was the international slogan for the event in recognition that climate change is becoming the defining issue of our era.

World Environment Day core events encompass four events that the Ministry for the Environment ran in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme, including activities associated with organising the events.

These events were

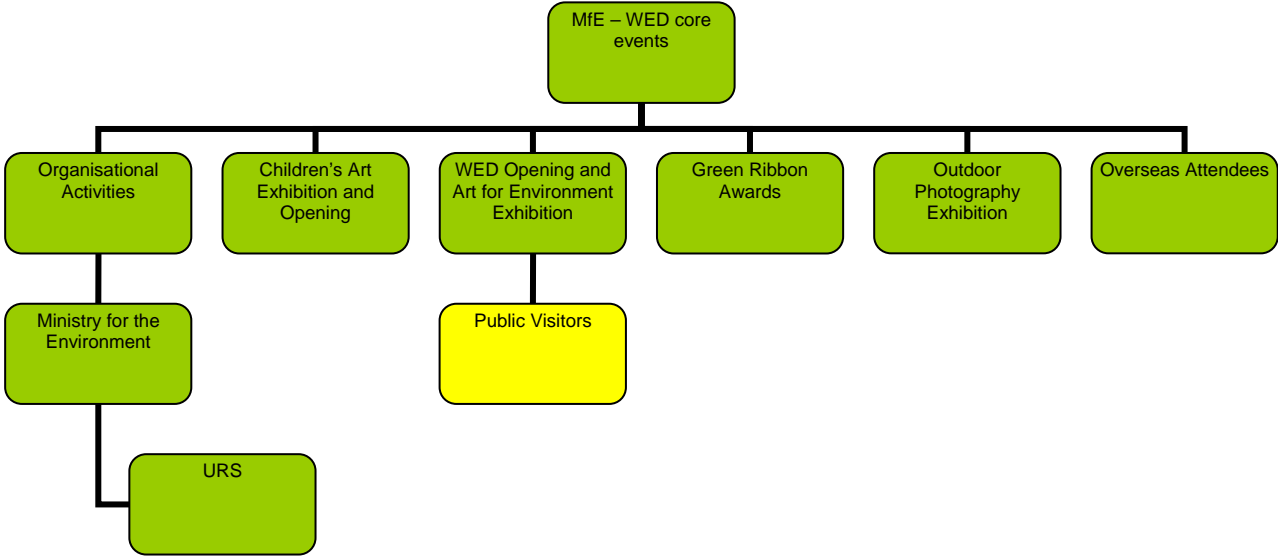
- Green Ribbon Awards (Wellington Town Hall, 3 June).
- WED launch and Art for the Environment Opening (5 June) and Exhibition (Signs of a Nation, Te Papa, 6 June – 16 November).
- Children’s Painting Competition Awards (5 June) and Exhibition (Inspiration Station, Te Papa, 30 May– 8 June).
- Outdoor Photography Exhibition (5 June – 7 September, Waitangi Park, Wellington waterfront).

For the purposes of this report these events are collectively referred to as the **MfE – WED core events**.

Boundary – the diagram below shows the organisational structure used for describing the MfE – WED core events greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory, and the business units which were included in the carboNZero certification. Yellow business units were measured but not required to be offset.

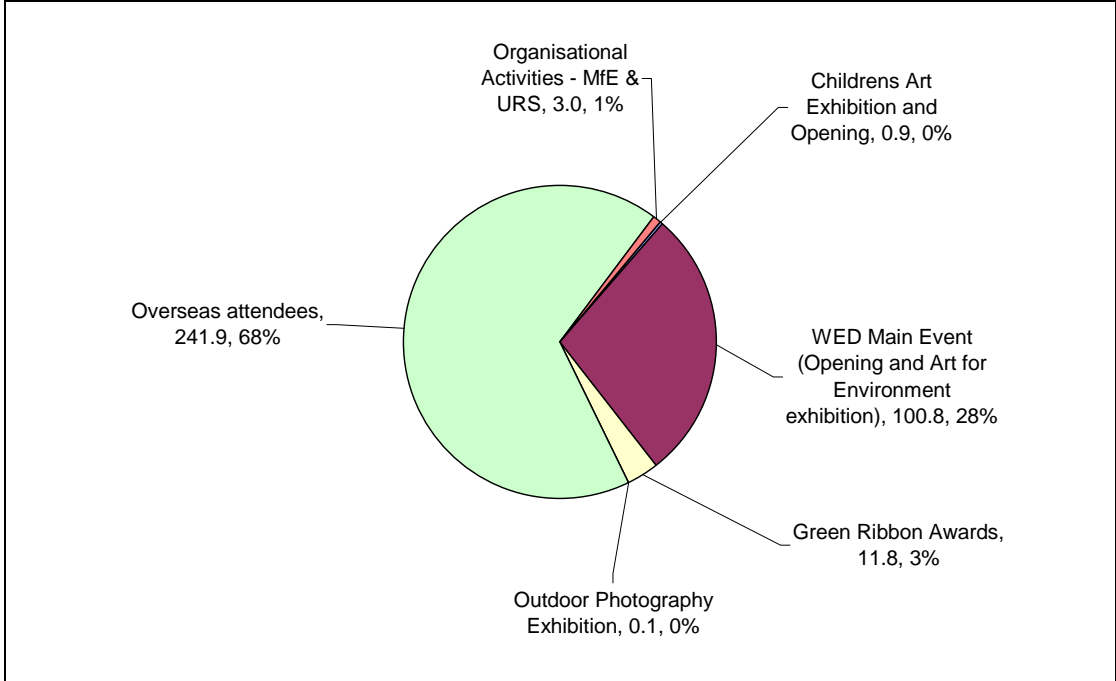
¹ **Disclaimer:** This Disclosure Statement is a summary of the verified information considered for certification and the certification decision. It should not be taken to represent the full submission for certification. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this Disclosure Statement is accurate and complete, Landcare Research does not, to the maximum extent permitted by law, give any warranty or guarantee relating to the accuracy or reliability of the information.

Summary of carboNZero certification: Ministry for the Environment - World Environment Day Core Events



Consolidation approach – operational control

GHG emissions source inclusions – the diagram below shows the operational GHG emissions for each event. Total emissions were 358.5 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) comprising of operational emissions.



Summary of carboNZero certification: Ministry for the Environment - World Environment Day Core Events



GHG emissions source exclusions –

- Emissions associated with NZ based visitors to the 'Art for the Environment Exhibition' (6 June to 16 November) were estimated based on travel surveys conducted with Te Papa museum visitors. Total emission from visitors to the exhibition was estimated at 147.5 tonnes of CO₂e. This is based on an assumption of 180,000 visitors over the course of the exhibition.

GHG emissions reduction commitments – The organiser of the MfE-WED core events had developed a GHG emissions reduction plan. Some key focus areas of the plan included:

- Continuing the work on sustainability under the Govt³ and Carbon Neutral Public Sector programmes
- Working with venue suppliers to help achieve and promote sustainability at WED core event venues
- Minimising waste and recycling materials at WED core events
- Using 100 per cent recycled paper and vegetable inks for WED promotional material wherever possible
- Holding core WED events in central locations on public transport routes and encouraging walking to and from events or using low carbon alternatives
- Using video conferencing for event planning rather than air travel to meetings

Offset – 359 tonnes CO₂e VERs² from EBEX21³

All activities will be offset through the carboNZero programme. However some of the activities included as part of the WED inventory also form part of the Natural World Museum (NWM) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) inventories. The activities covered by these offsets are a substantial part of the WED core events carbon footprint. These activities include the emissions associated with overseas attendees, and freight of artwork for the *Art for the Environment* exhibition.

These activities will also be offset by the UNEP and NWM offset programmes when their 2008 emissions inventory is completed. This will likely contribute to a greater number of carbon offsets being cancelled or retired than required, resulting in a positive net benefit to the atmosphere.

Verified by – Prescott Horn

Level of assurance – Reasonable assurance

Threshold of materiality – excluded emissions do not exceed 5% of the total footprint for event boundary stated.

Event date – 5 June – 16 November 2008

Certification status – carboNZero certified “event”

Certificate number – 2008065

² VERs are created by eligible projects for emissions reductions achieved up to the end of 2007.

³ EBEX21 – Emissions Biodiversity Exchange in the 21st Century project creates carbon credits through the regeneration of native forest on private land – see www.ebex21.co.nz