

Summary of carboNZero certification:

The Research Agency Ltd

The Research Agency meets the requirements of carboNZero^{Cert™} certification having measured its greenhouse gas emissions in compliance with ISO 14064-1, committed to managing and reducing its emissions and neutralised the remaining unavoidable emissions in respect of the operational activities of its organisation.



Introduction¹ – The Research Agency is a full-service, award-winning market research consultancy built out of a passion for research that delivers growth to clients. We believe climate change is serious issue and are committed to reducing our environmental impact. Taking part in a carbon emissions reduction programme is the next step in our commitment. The Research Agency measured all carbon emissions from 1 March 2009 – 1 March 2010, and in doing so identified that domestic air travel, electricity usage and staff commuting are our main sources of emissions. With this in mind we have set goals of reducing our electricity and fuel consumption as a result of commuting and we will actively reduce air travel where possible. We will also mitigate the full 24 tCO₂e through purchasing and cancelling carbon credits

Boundary – The boundary for the preparation of The Research Agency's greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is for one site. All business activities have been included.

Consolidation approach – Operational control.

Base year – 01/04/2008 to 31/03/2009

Measurement period – 01/04/2009 to 31/03/2010

GHG emissions source inclusions – The diagram below shows the operational GHG emissions for The Research Agency by emissions source. Total emissions for this period were 20.36 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO₂e). The breakdown for the total emissions by Scope was:

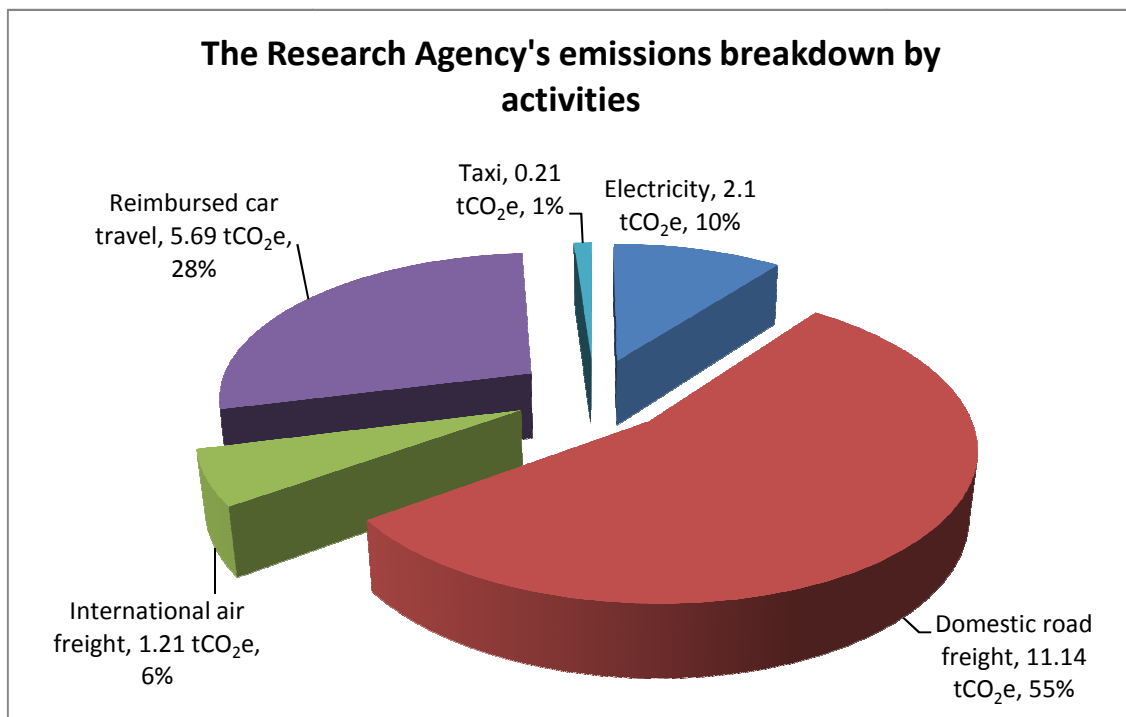
Scope 1: 0 tCO₂e;

Scope 2: 2.10 tCO₂e

Scope 3: 5.70 tCO₂e.

GHG emissions source exclusions – Waste to landfill and courier activities were excluded from this inventory as it was demonstrated to be *de minimis*.

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.



GHG emissions reduction commitments – The Research Agency has developed the following emissions management goals:

- Reduce electricity consumption by 10% by March 2011
- Reducing fuel consumption by staff commuting to work by 5% by March 2011
- Ensure 100% recycling of recyclables and reduce organic waste.
- Reduce air travel wherever possible (March 2011) – a new teleconferencing facility has been installed in the new office.
- Reduce emissions from Taxi usage by using carbon neutral certified taxi providers.

The Research Agency has increased their total GHG emissions by 6.86 tCO₂e from its base year. This was due to the procurement of a key account based in Wellington in 2010. This has seen an increase in air travel to Wellington. Although video conferencing with this client has also been happening, at this stage air travel is still necessary. The business also grew this year, and by its nature it involves travel to other parts of New Zealand to conduct research. This has also led to an unavoidable increase in our emissions.

Offset – 21 tonnes CO₂e. Gold Standard VERs² from Meridian Energy PRE windpower³ project. Serial numbers 409720-409740 cancelled in the carboNZero programme register.

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

³ PRE - Projects to Reduce Emissions is a New Zealand government scheme for projects that are eligible under the Joint Implementation initiative of the Kyoto Protocol – see www.mfe.govt.nz.

Summary of carboNZero certification:

The Research Agency Ltd

Verified by – Green Fox Consulting Ltd

Level of assurance – Reasonable assurance

Threshold of materiality – Excluded emissions do not exceed 5% of the total footprint for the small enterprise boundary stated.

Certification status – carboNZero certified small enterprise covering all operational emissions at one site.

Certificate number – 2010076J

Certification valid until – 30 June 2011

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