

GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING OVERVIEW

To manage greenhouse gas emissions generated by human activity it is necessary to identify the sources of emissions and quantify how much is being emitted by each source.

Australia is a party to intergovernmental agreements which require it to measure and report on its greenhouse gas emissions. These agreements include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

The reporting requirements are set out in these agreements and must also be in accordance with Guidelines issued by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The Australian National Inventory Reports are prepared annually and submitted to the UNFCCC. The information in these reports is calculated on a national basis, but in addition is used to produce inventory reports for individual States and Territories and also for different economic sectors.

The Tasmanian State Government prepares a greenhouse gas emissions report annually within 60 days of the National Greenhouse Gas Accounts: State and Territory Greenhouse Gas Inventories having been published by the Australian Government. The State report is largely based on the information in the National Accounts.

While the National Accounts report economic sectors based on the Australian and New Zealand standard industry classifications, the Tasmanian report uses the international categories of energy, agriculture, industrial processes, waste and land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF).

Local government emissions are distributed between multiple economic sectors in the National Accounts, but primarily in energy and waste in the State Government report.

The latest Tasmanian Government report is dated 2022 and is based on the most recently available 2020 National Accounts. The Report shows net Tasmania emissions of -3.73 million Tonnes CO₂-equivalent or a 120.9% reduction on 1990 levels. Excluding LULUCF the 2020 amount is 7.91 million tCO₂-e or a decrease of 0.35 million tCO₂-e from 1990. The two main categories where there was a decrease were from waste – a drop of 0.2 million tonnes (0.57M to 0.37M) – and electricity generation – 0.43 million tonnes (0.57M to 0.14M) – with these partially offsetting increases in other categories.

For organisations greenhouse gas emission reporting is regulated under the National Greenhouse Emissions Reporting Act 2007 (NGER Act). Under this Act, individual facilities which emit over 25,000 tonnes CO₂-e or use over 100 terajoules of energy and organisations whose total emissions are over 50,000 tonnes CO₂-e or use more than 200 terajoules per annum must report their emissions annually. The annual emissions and energy use of each of the STCA councils are below these thresholds and thus no STCA council is required to report its emissions under this Act.

Under the NGER Act only a small percentage of organisations are required to report, though they do generate a large proportion of the overall emissions. Many other organisations are however voluntarily undertaking greenhouse gas emission inventories and reporting publicly.

There are several opportunities that are created by undertaking inventories, reporting and developing emission reduction plans. For private sector businesses the main drivers are to reduce costs or enhance their reputation to increase sales. For public sector organisations opportunities can include reduction of operational costs from reduced energy use, reputational advantage and improved ability to recruit staff, meeting or exceeding community expectations for action on climate change, demonstrating leadership and capacity to encourage other organisations to report and manage emissions and supporting strategic plan objectives and organisation strategies.

The Council Carbon and Energy Footprint Information Series has been developed as part of the Southern Councils Climate Collaboration. The Collaboration is an initiative of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority climate program, the Regional Climate Change Initiative. It is supporting the 12 southern councils to build capacity and capability to develop climate responses, to reduce their carbon emissions, and respond to the challenges and opportunities of a changing climate.

The Collaboration uses a common and consistent approach to work with councils to find local solutions. The approaches and resources used in the Collaboration have been developed specifically to meet the role and functions of councils and enable actions to be scaled between councils or regionally resulting in greater efficiencies and avoid duplication and maladaptive responses. The Information Series outlines key concepts, and methods, used in the preparation of Council Carbon and Energy Footprints through the Collaboration.



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[stca.tas.gov.au/rcci/our-projects/
regional-community-carbon-
emissions-profiles/](https://stca.tas.gov.au/rcci/our-projects/regional-community-carbon-emissions-profiles/)