



Save the Children



CARBON MAPPING REPORT 2018

Save the Children UK, August 2019

Carbon Footprint Report 2018

WHY MEASURING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT IS IMPORTANT TO US

Climate change is undeniably one of the biggest threats to the children of the future. The effects of climate change are already leading to drought, famine, disease and conflict. Vulnerable groups, especially the most deprived and marginalised children, will continue to be hit hardest by the effects of climate change. We know that if we want to protect children from the increasing threats associated with climate change, we need to first understand the impact we have on the environment and do what we can to reduce it.

Measuring our carbon footprint is one of the most effective ways we can do this and so each year we undertake a mapping process to detail the carbon emissions produced by our business.

WHAT DOES CO₂e MEAN?

CO₂e, or carbon dioxide equivalent, is a standard unit for measuring carbon footprints. The idea is to express the impact of each different greenhouse gas in terms of the amount of CO₂ that would create the same amount of warming. That way, a carbon footprint consisting of lots of different greenhouse gases can be expressed as a single number.

In the context of climate change, we use the term “carbon” as a shorthand for carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas released by humans. The carbon mapping process is a way of measuring the amount of carbon dioxide our operations have produced in a given year.

CALCULATING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

We have been mapping our annual carbon footprint since 2011. This report covers the period from 1 January – 31 December 2018. It details emissions from our six UK offices (London headquarters and regional offices in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff and Manchester) as well as our 127 shops. We use the following key areas to calculate our carbon footprint:

- Travel by staff (to/from/within the UK)
- Energy use (electricity, gas and other fuels) at our UK offices and shops
- Paper use (in our offices)
- Waste and recycling (from our offices)
- Water use (in our offices)

Our footprint is calculated in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) which is the standard unit for measuring the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of an individual or organisation. Measuring our emissions in this way allows us to establish a standardised unit of measurement for our footprint and its component parts, e.g. water, gas, fuel. We provide comparative information from previous years to highlight where we are increasing or decreasing our emissions. We can use this data to identify areas where we can further reduce our emissions.

The data provided is collated from energy bills, staff expense claims and information from our travel agency. We then use a carbon footprint tool which uses the most recent conversion factors and guidance from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)¹ to convert this data into CO₂e. Our carbon footprint does not include any data for any offices or travel related to Save the Children International staff, nor does it consider the environmental impact of our programmatic work, or other considerations such as staff commutes to work.

PROGRESS IN 2018

Our carbon-mapping process has improved since last year. 2018 was the first full year using our e-expenses system for monitoring our travel. This has meant that our travel mileage mapping is more accurate. Improving the accuracy of our data is crucial for best estimates of our emissions; while we have made progress, there is still room for improvement in the process.

In 2018 it became possible to better-analyse our use of air travel by type (e.g. long-haul economy, short-haul business), allowing us to produce a more accurate representation of emissions. We also ran several internal awareness-raising events to encourage behaviour change in our staff and to increase understanding of the relationship between our work and the environment. These included a recycling campaign and a week of presentations on the environment with external experts. We also added douche valves in some of our toilet cubicles in our London office to ease and encourage the use of reusable sanitary wear. In 2018, we trialled the introduction of oat milk for staff in our headquarters to use in their hot drinks while reducing the availability of dairy milk. In addition to this, we continued to compost food waste, recycle waste, and use an eco-friendly enzyme dosing system to break down fats prior to entry into the sewage system.

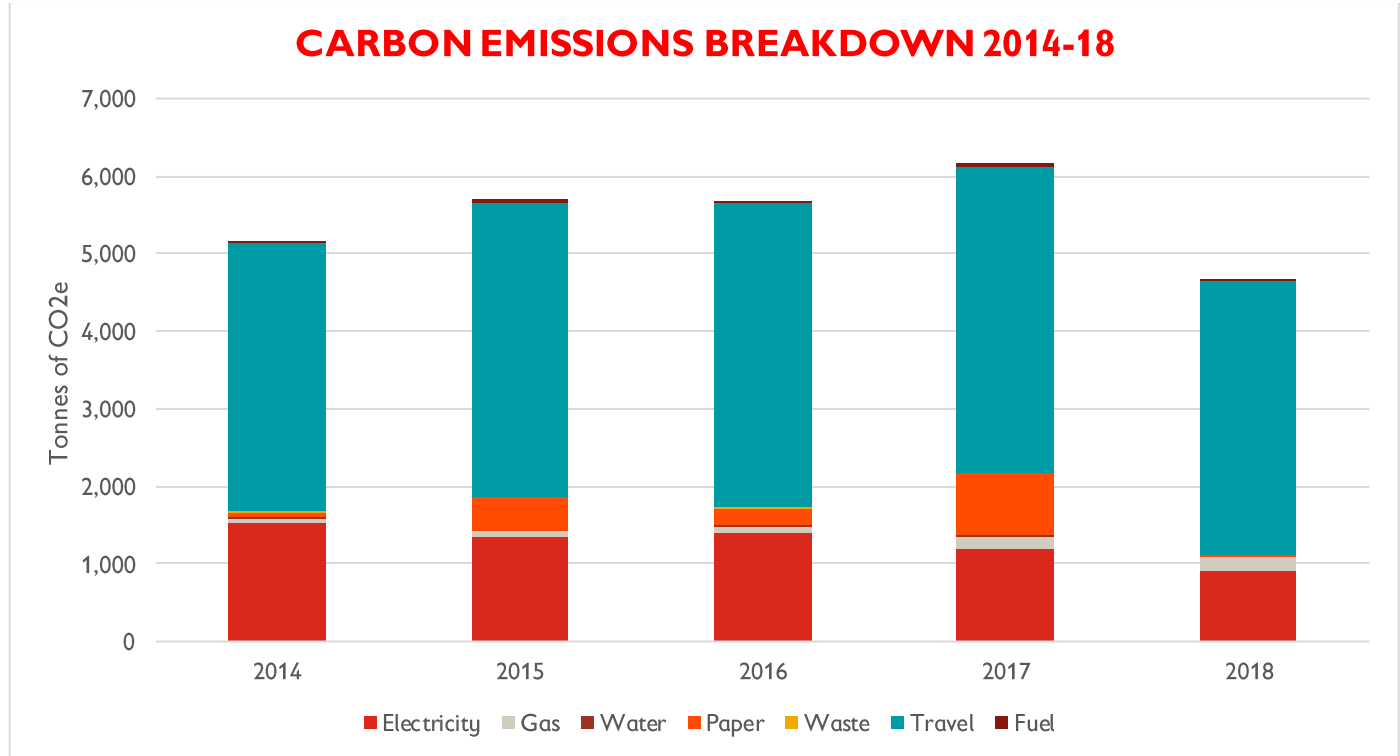
¹ Latest conversion factors and guidelines available here: <http://www.ukconversionfactorscarbonsmart.co.uk>

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OUR 2018 CARBON FOOTPRINT

In 2018, we produced 4,658 tonnes of CO₂e through travel and within our UK offices and shops. This equates to 4.09 tonnes of CO₂e per member of staff (1,139). Travel emissions accounted for 75% of our footprint, while electricity was the second largest factor at 20%. Gas, waste, paper, water and fuel account for the remaining 5%.

CARBON EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN 2014-18



4,658 tonnes
carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e)
produced

Decrease of **15%** from 2017

4.09 tonnes
carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e)
per person

Decrease of **14%** from 2017

Emission type	Consumption	Tonnes CO ₂ e emissions
Electricity	2,388,482 kwh	918
Gas	799,651 kwh	164
Water	6,992 m ³	7
Paper	12,307 kg	12
Waste	92,633 kg	19
Travel	14,656,327 miles	3,513
Fuel	3,900 litres	25
Total	N/A	4,658

A NOTE ON PAPER EMISSIONS

In the above graph, you will see our paper consumption emission figures have fluctuated more strikingly than other areas of the business over the last five years. We now believe this is likely due to miscalculations in the carbon mapping reports for 2015 and 2017 which both show much higher paper consumption levels.

We believe this has happened because of the way we ask staff to record data on our paper purchases. We will be changing this in future years to ensure that the reporting process is clearer and simpler for staff.

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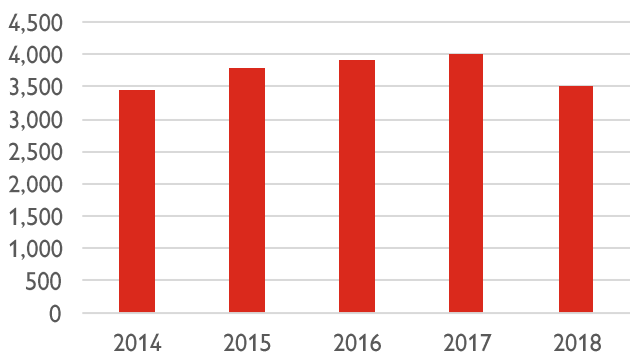
KEY CONTRIBUTORS TO OUR 2018 CARBON FOOTPRINT

TRAVEL EMISSIONS - 3,513 tonnes of CO₂e

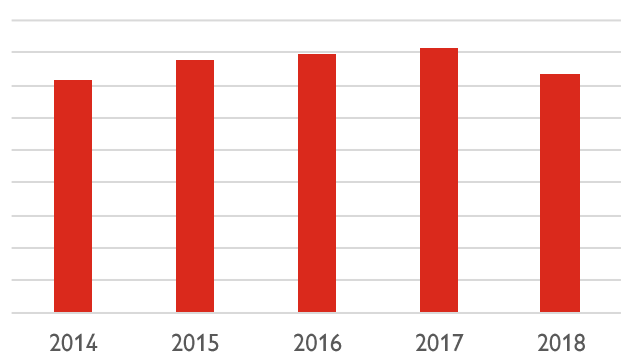
As a humanitarian and development organisation with global reach, when necessary, we deploy specialist staff internationally in response to emergencies or in response to technical capacity needs. As a result, travel emissions continue to make up the largest proportion of our carbon footprint in 2018 at 75%. The largest percentage of this is flights which constitute 93% of all travel emissions for 2018, with trains at 5% and other transport (including cars, buses and ferries) making up the remaining 2%.

2018 saw an overall drop in travel-related carbon emissions. This can be attributed to over one million fewer air miles travelled, in part due to fewer humanitarian disasters taking place in 2018. In addition to this some of our major humanitarian programmes, such as our Horn of Africa response, came to an end in 2018.

CO₂e tonnes produced through travel



Miles travelled



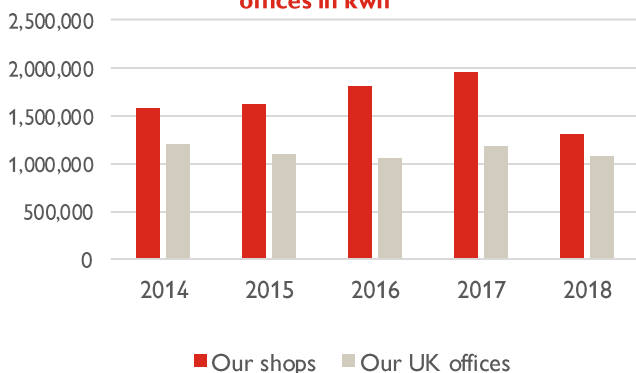
ELECTRICITY EMISSIONS - 918 tonnes of CO₂e

Our electricity usage is divided between our offices (primarily our London headquarters) and our retail shops. Our headquarters has used a supplier of renewable energy since 2012 and as our carbon tracker assumes an average grid energy mix, our footprint is in fact lower than the calculated figures.

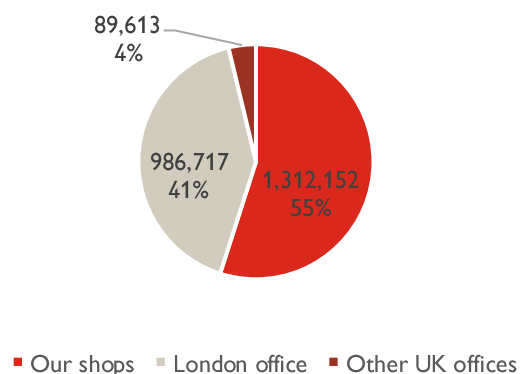
The second largest segment of our carbon footprint is electricity consumption. While this has continued to be the case from 2017 into 2018, the total amount of carbon emissions produced through electricity consumption has decreased significantly since 2016. This is because electricity is generally becoming less carbon-intensive and because we have reduced electricity consumption significantly in our London office this year. This resulted in part from a full thermal audit of our headquarters building to ensure air recirculation systems run at peak efficiency, which has resulted in considerable energy reduction from the use of our boilers and coolers. We also switched to low-energy LED lightbulbs in our basement working area.

Electricity consumption for our shops has also decreased. This is due in part to the number of shops decreasing (from 143 to 127) but also to our broker providing us with estimated meter readings.

2014-18 electricity usage in our shops and offices in kwh



2018 electricity consumption in kwh



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LOOKING FORWARD

We acknowledge that there is much more we can do to mitigate the environmental impact of our work both in the UK and overseas delivered through Save the Children International. We are carefully considering how we can reduce our carbon emissions and contribute to the wider challenge to mitigate the risks of climate change.

Looking forward, we will continue to look for ways to broaden our reporting parameters and be as comprehensive as possible. The calculation of our travel mileage is currently very complex and time-consuming, and we have been working with our e-expenses team to try to come up with ways to make this process more efficient. We will look at ways of improving our paper consumption reporting so that we can improve accuracy in this area.

Beyond the key areas analysed for our carbon footprint of our offices and shops, we are looking into ways our staff can individually have a more positive impact, ways in which we can promote consideration of the environment throughout our supply chain and ways in which we can reduce our negative impact around our programmatic work. Our Environmental Champions network has built and maintained a garden in the courtyard of our London headquarters, and have been raising awareness of environmental issues internally through staff engagement initiatives and this work will continue into 2019.

SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In May 2019, Save the Children International approved a new policy (a statement of principle that provides direction for all staff and organisational units) on Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change (ESCC). The purpose of this policy and the proposed complimentary action plan is to provide the framework to improve our environmental performance by:

- Minimising the negative environmental impact of our programmes and operations
- Contributing positively to environmental sustainability and climate change action

The policy is grounded in international environmental and climate change conventions, such as [The Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC](#); [the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development](#); and [the Convention on Biological Diversity](#). It also draws upon key child rights documents such as [the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), and the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#). Finally, it builds on existing work such as Save the Children Members' environmental sustainability policies and Save the Children International's global strategy.

Our executive leadership team at Save the Children UK are committed to signing up to this policy and developing an action plan for our programmes and operations, including how we reduce our carbon emissions.