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Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe
The voice of European Lawyers

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CCBE Carbon Footprint

In February 2023, the CCBE adopted its initial Statement on Climate Change. In its statement, the CCBE notably committed to *"(a) taking action in relation to its own activities in a manner consistent with restricting global warming to 1.5°C, and to report in a transparent way to the Plenary Session on the actions it has taken and their outcome*" and "(b) *submitting on a short term its activities to a thorough and concrete analysis by external experts, including a calculation of its CO2 footprint;".*

Shortly after the adoption of its statement, the CCBE undertook to calculate its corporate carbon footprint (Corporate Carbon Footprint (CCF)). This CCF includes the calculation of the footprint generated by the professional activities of the CCBE Secretariat, based in Brussels, and by the business travels of the CCBE Presidency. This year the CCBE worked together with a specialised company, Climate Partner, to calculate its 2022 CCF. The results are now available for the year 2022. The results, the way those results were obtained and the data collected are available in Annex 1.

Then, in accordance with the commitments taken by the CCBE and given that no reduction target has been established yet, the CCBE decided to compensate its CCF by financing officially recognised climate projects through the UN Carbon Offset Platform (https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/). This platform is an e-commerce platform where a company, an organisation or a regular citizen can purchase units (carbon credits) to compensate greenhouse gas emissions or to simply support action on climate. The main feature of this platform is to display UNFCCC-certified climate friendly projects that reduce, avoid or remove greenhouse gas emissions. These projects are implemented in developing countries around the world and are rewarded with Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) for each ton of greenhouse gas they help reduce, avoid or remove.

In this regard, it should be noted that the CCBE CCF remains an approximation and a work in progress. Therefore, the CCBE decided to compensate more emissions than CCF to ensure that its CCF, for the professional activities of its Secretariat and Presidency, is entirely compensated(See CER in annex 2).

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ANNEX 1

ClimatePartner

Report

Corporate Carbon Footprint

Jan 2022 - Dec 2022

January 2024

CCBE

Corporate Carbon Footprint

CCBE has worked with ClimatePartner to calculate a corporate carbon footprint (CCF). The CCF reflects the total CO_2 emissions released by a company within the defined system boundaries over a specified period of time. A CCF can also refer to only part of a company, for example, one or more locations of the company. This CCF is for the calculation **CCBE CCF 2022**. The calculation was based on the guidelines of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (GHG Protocol).

CCF - the basis for climate action

Calculate, reduce, finance climate projects - these are the crucial steps to tackling climate change in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

The foundation for any climate action starts with calculation: A company that knows their carbon footprint also knows which parts of their business cause emissions and how high the emissions are.
At the same time, a carbon footprint helps companies to understand which areas have the greatest potential for avoidance and reduction, to set reduction targets, and to develop and implement appropriate reduction measures. Annual CCF reports allow companies to check their progress against reduction targets and to identify areas where emissions can be further reduced.

Results

The following emissions were calculated for **CCBE CCF 2022** for the period **Jan 2022 - Dec 2022**:

CO_2 emissions

	Result
Full time equivalent employees (FTE)	6.98 t CO_2 / Full time equivalent (FTE)
Square meter area	0.16 t CO_2 / m^2
Overall results	**97.70 t CO_2**

By comparison

The emissions correspond to the carbon footprint of 11 Europeans.

One person in Europe emits an average of 8.7 t of CO_2 per year[1]

1) Source: EEA 2019, European Environment Agency: EEA greenhouse gas - data viewer, EU-27 value for total emissions with international transport (CO_2e), https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/data-viewers/greenhouse-gases-viewer (retrieved 01/31/2022.)

Our calculation approach

Principles

In preparing the corporate carbon footprint and this report, five basic principles were observed in accordance with the GHG Protocol:

Relevance: The calculation should account for all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that appropriately reflect the company's carbon footprint. This report is designed to support internal and external decision-making.

Completeness: The report must include all GHG emissions within the selected system boundaries. Any significant exclusions of data must be clearly documented, disclosed, and justified.

Consistency: Consistent methodologies are used so that the company's emissions can be can be compared over time.

Transparency: All important aspects of a company are recorded objectively, and any assumptions, data gaps and resulting extrapolations or data exclusions are presented clearly and openly in this report.

Accuracy: The calculations of GHG emissions are designed to ensure that they are neither over- nor undervalued. The report aims to be as accurate as possible and to minimise uncertainties, so that the company can make appropriate decisions.

Data collection and calculation

CO_2 emissions were calculated using the company's consumption data and emission factors researched by ClimatePartner. Wherever possible, primary data were used. If no primary data were available, secondary data from highly credible sources were used. Emission factors were taken from scientifically recognized databases such as ecoinvent and DEFRA.

CO_2 equivalents

The corporate carbon footprint calculates all emissions as CO_2 equivalents (CO_2e), which this report also refers to as "CO_2".

This means that all relevant greenhouse gases, as stated in the IPCC Assessment Report, were taken into account in the calculations. These include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), perfluorocarbons (PFC), sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF_3). Each gas has a different ability to warm the earth's atmosphere, and each remains in the atmosphere for different lengths of time.To make their effect comparable, they are converted to CO_2 equivalents (CO_2e) as a basic unit and multiplied by their global warming potential (GWP). The GWP describes how strong a gas can warm the atmosphere compared to CO_2 over a period of time, usually 100 years.

For example, methane has a global warming potential of 28, so the warming effect of methane is 28 times greater than CO_2 over 100 years. [2]

Electricity: market-based and location-based approaches

Emissions for electricity were calculated using both the market-based method and the location-based method. This dual reporting approach is recommended by the GHG Protocol.

For the market-based method, the company provided specific emission factors for the electricity they purchased, if available. If these specific factors were not available, factors for the residual mix in the country of operation were used, or, if this was unavailable, the average grid mix of the country was used.

The report also states the location-based method. In this method, the average electricity grid mix for the country is calculated. This enables a direct comparison of the company's values with the country-specific average.

2) Source: Intergovernmental Panel on climate change, “Climate Change 2021 The Physical Science Basis”, S. 1842, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Full_Report.pdf (retrieved on 31.01.2022)

Operational System Boundaries

Operational system boundaries indicate which activities are covered by the carbon footprint. The various emission sources have been divided into three scopes in accordance with the GHG Protocol:

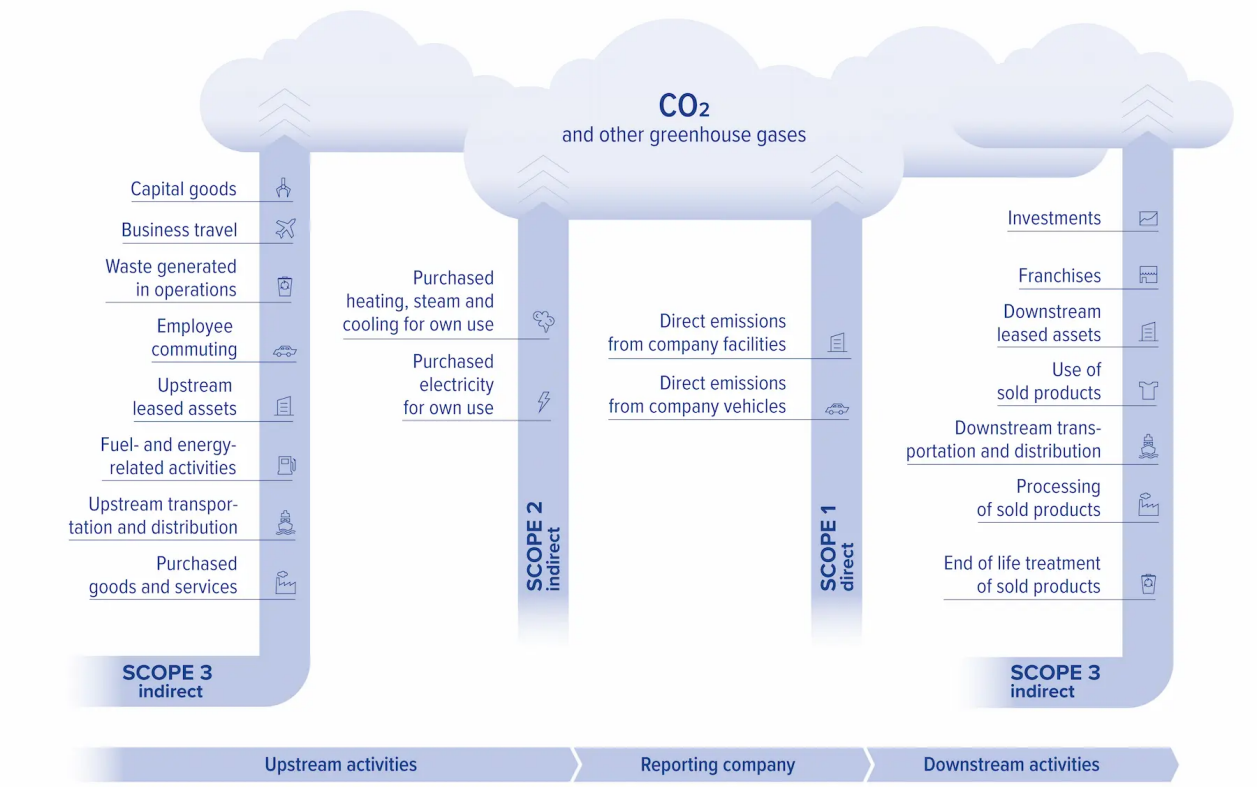
Scope 1 includes all emissions generated directly, for example by company-owned equipment or vehicle fleets.

Scope 2 lists emissions generated by purchased energy, for example electricity and district heating.

Scope 3 includes all other emissions that are not under direct corporate control, such as employee travel or product disposal.

Figure

Activities divided by scope

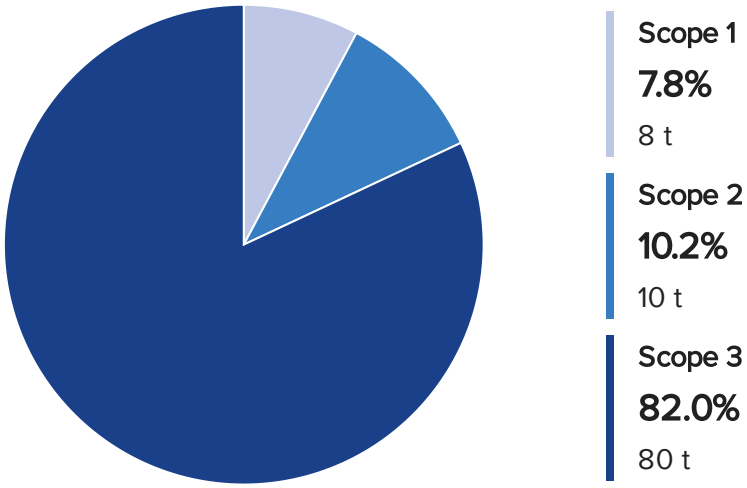


Largest emission sources - greatest potential for reduction

The CCF makes it possible to identify the largest emissions sources, also called hotspots. These are the most impactful areas to target when planning reductions.

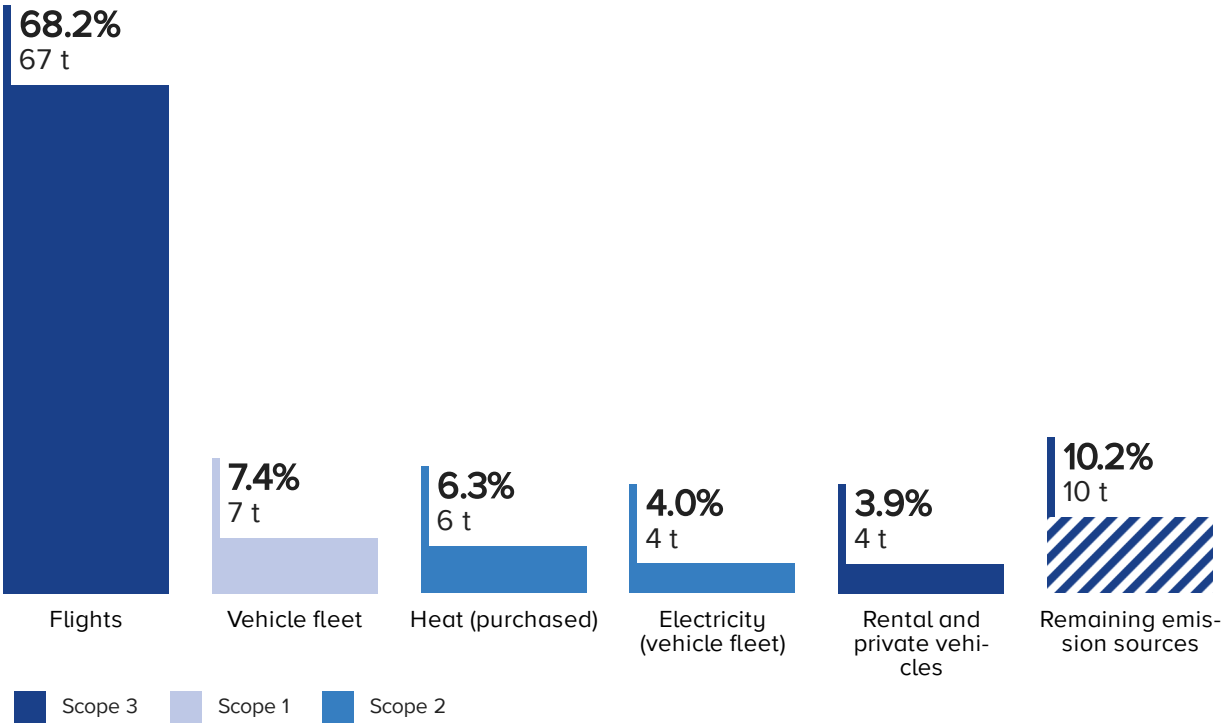
Figure

CO_2 emissions categorised by scope 1, 2, and 3



Figure

The largest CO_2 emission sources



CCF Results Table: CCBE CCF 2022

Overall results for the period **01/2022 - 12/2022**

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Emission sources	t CO_2	%
Scope 1	**7.61**	**7.8**
Direct emissions from company vehicles	7.25	7.4
Vehicle fleet	7.25	7.4
Direct emissions from company facilities	0.36	0.4
Refrigerant leakage	0.36	0.4
Scope 2	**10.00**	**10.2**
Purchased heating, steam, and cooling for own use	6.13	6.3
Heat (purchased)	6.13	6.3
Purchased electricity for own use [3]	3.87	4.0
Electricity (vehicle fleet)	3.87	4.0
Electricity (stationary)	0.00	0.0
Scope 3	**80.09**	**82.0**
Business travel	73.09	74.8
Flights	66.68	68.2
Rental and private vehicles	3.83	3.9
Hotel nights	2.43	2.5
Rail	0.15	0.2
Employee commuting	5.10	5.2
Home office	2.82	2.9
Employee Commuting	2.29	2.3
Fuel- and energy-related activities	1.70	1.7
Upstream emissions heat	1.01	1.0
Upstream emissions electricity	0.69	0.7
Purchased goods and services	0.19	0.2
Office paper	0.14	0.1
External data centre	0.06	0.1
Overall results	**97.70**	**100.0**

3) Calculated using the market-based method. Emissions calculated using the location-based method are 6.61 t CO_2.

United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

ANNEX 2

Date: 5 DÉCEMBRE 2023
RÉFÉRENCE: VC30918/2023

CERTIFICAT D'ANNULATION VOLONTAIRE

Présenté à

Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)

Projet

RIMA Fuel Switch in Bocaiúva

Motif de l’annulation

Je compense les émissions de gaz à effet de serre de ma société

Nombre d'unités annulées

286 URCE

Équivalent à 286 tonne(s) de CO<sub>2</ sub>

Numéro de série - début: BR-5-78488166-1-1-0-889
Numéro de série - fin: BR-5-78488451-1-1-0-889

Période de surveillance: 01-11-2011 - 30-06-2012

Le certificat est délivré selon la procédure d'annulation volontaire dans le registre du MDP. Le motif inclus dans ce certificat est fourni par la personne à l'origine de l'annulation.