

**Scottish Environment LINK**

**Carbon Management Report 2021-22**

# Management summary

This is the thirteenth published Carbon Accounts report from LINK. Previous year’s reports can be found on our [website](https://www.scotlink.org/?s=carbon+accounts&post_type=publication&ezXjgVUlB=yui3tUg_G9DCJE5&-kMYSp=SfkJtwoKVqvRZA9r&IBxUkHfiN_A=1vgaRfW&aqwSYhBzHfp=1qLJ0mX%40.Wg&ezXjgVUlB=yui3tUg_G9DCJE5&-kMYSp=SfkJtwoKVqvRZA9r&IBxUkHfiN_A=1vgaRfW&aqwSYhBzHfp=1qLJ0mX%40.Wg). Note that 2013/14 data had not been gathered and is therefore omitted from the data sets.

The scope of this year’s report is different from previous years reflecting the change of LINK’s working practices. Following the lifting of COVID lockdowns, staff are now working on a hybrid model with a mix of remote and in-office working. LINK continues to hold most meetings and events online with face-to-face meetings where practicable. Energy emission include estimated homeworking energy emissions, a nominal amount to cover electricity use in both offices, travel for all employees (both business and commuting), waste, and recycling from the Perth office. The collection of data from LINK’s Edinburgh office has not been possible since October 2016.

The team’s estimated homeworking energy emissions are calculated based on guidance provided by Environmental consultants [EcoAct](https://eco-act.com/) who have written a [whitepaper on homeworking emissions](https://info.eco-act.com/en/homeworking-emissions-whitepaper-2020)  and summarised in a helpful Blog by Bulb (the UK's biggest green energy supplier) who contributed to this work - [How to measure the carbon impact of working from home | Blog | Bulb](https://bulb.co.uk/blog/how-to-measure-the-carbon-impact-of-working-from-home).

The carbon equivalent figures are calculated based on the conversion factors published in the [Government guidelines](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2019) for 2020. Our emission levels in terms of metric tonnes increased as the emission of kg CO2e are now calculated at higher rates across some forms of transport and energy.

LINK's environmental policy is based on the principle of the "3 Rs" - reducing consumption of energy and other resources, re-using resources as much as possible and recycling where possible.

Overall, our Carbon Emissions for the year equated to 3.3 metric tonnes - an increase of 0.73 tonnes on 2020/21.

The largest share of our emissions was generated from heating and power, with an increase of 0.38 metric tonnes from last year. This increase in energy consumption is due to the return of staff to the offices (on a hybrid basis) and an increase in staffing levels of 0.76 FTE over the past year.

As the table above shows, the recommencement of travel for business and commuting post covid has increased our carbon emissions per employee by 4% compared to last year.

**Travel**

As covid restrictions have lifted, staff are commuting back to the office on a rota basis and travelling occasionally on business, however the majority of meetings and events are now held online.

Rail travel remains the main form of travel for LINK staff. There has been a small increase in travel by car although this remains our least preferred method, only using cars to travel when the public transport option is unfeasible.

The split of staff business travel between the different projects/offices can be seen below. The travel increase is attributable to the Perth office, where our Chief Officer, Deborah Long is working with a wider range of external stakeholders to meet LINK’s goals of a more sustainable Scotland.

LINK’s travel from commuting has also increased slightly but this is predominantly attributed to one staff member of staff who commutes from a rural area. LINK continues to offer staff the opportunity to participate in the Cycle to Work Scheme to encourage more travel by bicycle.

**Waste Disposal**

LINK tracks waste disposed from its Perth office but is currently not able to capture that information for its Edinburgh office, although our Edinburgh staff separate their waste with as much as possible sent for recycling and all food waste collected for composting.

The amount of waste disposed to landfill from the Perth office has reduced; this can be partly attributed to a continued lower use of LINK meeting room.

In both offices, food waste is taken home by staff to be composted through the Local Authorities’ composting service or in home composting.

# Improving our carbon management in 2022-23

# We will continue to hold meetings and events on-line whenever possible as this increases accessibility for mnay members and has been shown to be highly successful since 2020. Face to face events are now limited to those where networking is an integral objectives. LINK continues to offer all staff flexible working, with home and office based working in a hybrid model. This aids work/life balance and reduces carbon emissions from commuting.

Tanyara Matore

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