

**CARBON
ROADMAP
2024 - 2035**

INTRODUCTION

The evidence is clear; environmental degradation, and in particular global warming has a devastating effect on health outcomes for everyone, everywhere. However, the worst affected, as ever, are vulnerable populations living where weak health systems are already overstretched, underfunded and struggling.

Recognising our role in national, regional and global health policy advocacy, we have now included climate change in our mission statement and updated our constitution to mandate our work in what is and will be for some time, one of the most significant health challenges of the 21st century.

It is essential then to recognise our own contribution to carbon emissions and put our own house in order. As a first step, we commissioned a carbon audit which assessed our CO₂ footprint for the entire 12 months of 2023. Health Action International (HAI) has a small, shared office in Amsterdam, which does, of course contribute to our emissions.

Unsurprisingly though, by far the biggest contribution to our carbon footprint is flying, both as part of our work and the carbon cost of employees who live outside the Netherlands.

This audit provides us with a crucial baseline from which we can set our ambitions for carbon reduction in the coming years as we balance our mission objectives with the environmental costs of pursuing them.

AUDIT FINDINGS

The following assumptions were applied in the assessment:

- Staff work 50% from home and 50% from office (2 days in/2 days out a week, or week in/week out) with the exclusion of one staff member who is part time with 75% of time in office.
 - Total FTE: 14.4
 - Annual work hours: (assuming 46 working weeks per year) 23,846 hours
- HAI has no company owned or leased vehicles and any business travel mileage is in staff owned vehicles unless otherwise stated.
- The building management have provided the following data about HAI's resource use:
 - Electricity 4,168 kWh
 - Gas 1,836 m³
 - Water 6,254 m³
 - Wastewater has been assumed at 95% of water usage.
- Capital goods have been included – covering new computer equipment, with 8 new laptops purchased in 2023.
- Office consumables have been assumed as follows:
 - 576kgs paper use (48 x 12kg boxes annually)

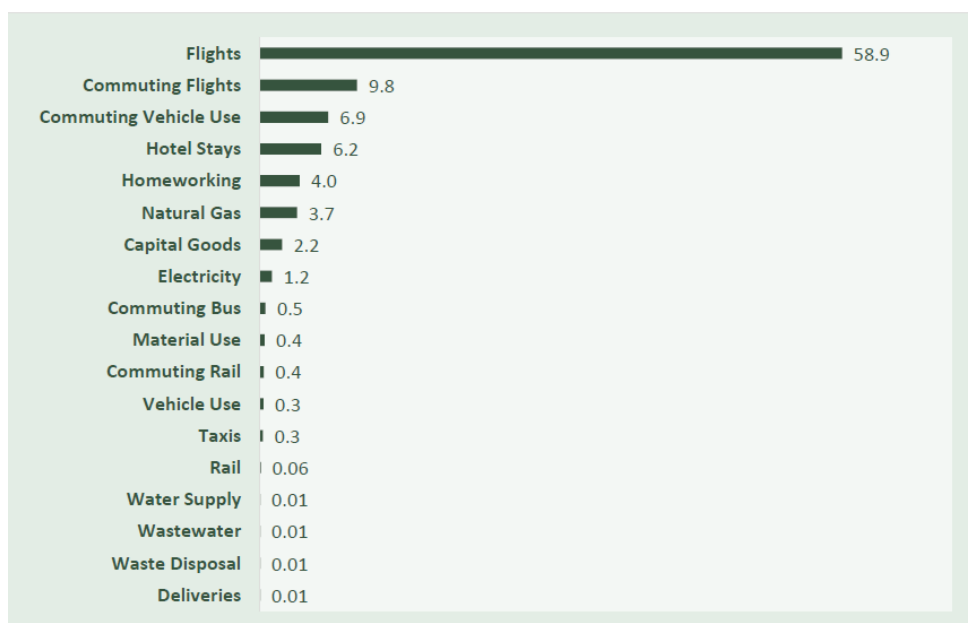
- 900 grams paper towel use (3 x TORK premium handtowels)
- 31.5 kgs toilet paper (21 x 1.5 kg packs of toilet paper)
- 1 set of printer inks annually (assumed to be negligible in terms of Material Use)
- Deliveries have been assumed to be delivered by DPD (or similar) with an average carbon emissions rate of 0.6 kg/parcel with an estimated 16 deliveries annually.
- Waste collection for paper for recycling has been assumed at 5 times annually, collecting a 100-litre bin, estimated to contain in the order of 120 kg of paper for recycling each collection.

A large amount of travel internationally is conducted as part of business operations, the following assumptions have been applied to account for business travel elements not specifically recorded.

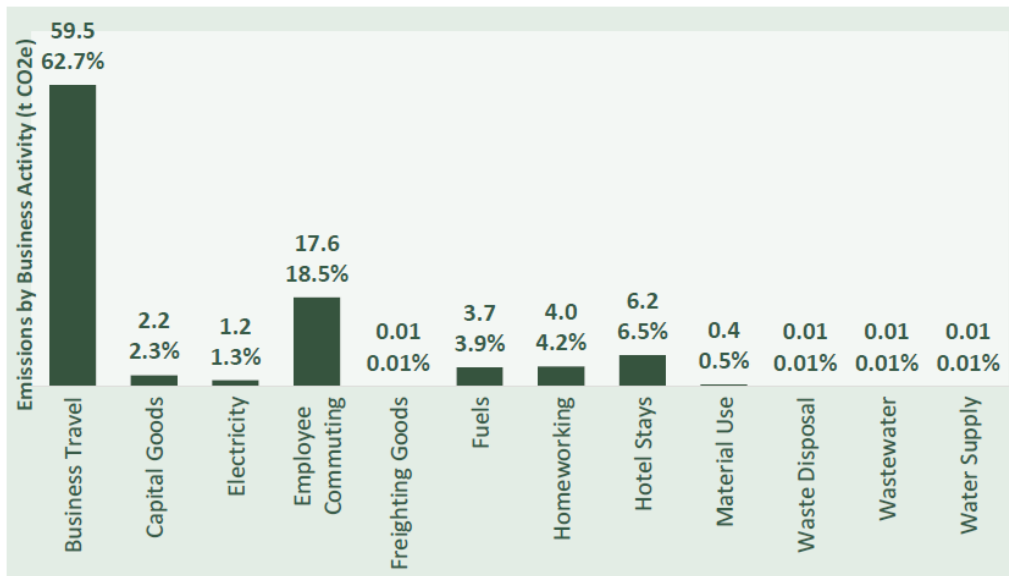
- For each international trip 25 km of taxi trips are assumed taken on average
 - Airport transfers internationally on shuttle buses are assumed to be negligible.
- 25 km of light rail travel has been added each way to account for staff travel to/from AMS airport.
- Any plane travel of the two staff members based internationally (Spain and the UK) has been assumed
 - to be conducted from their home airport (Barcelona and London Gatwick respectively).
- Any train travel of the two staff members based internationally (Spain and the UK) has been assumed to be conducted from the Amsterdam Office as part of their in-office time.

Business travel, of course, also entails hotel stays, which were recorded as part of the assessment.

Overall Emissions Breakdown



Emissions by Business Activity



Largest Emission Sources



62.7%

Business Travel

59.5 t CO2e

Business Travel including staff mileage, hotel stays, flights, trains and taxi's etc.



18.5%

Employee Commuting

17.6 t CO2e

Employee commuting including flights for international staff members

6.5%

Hotel Stays

6.2 t CO2e

Hotel Accommodation as part of Business Travel

Based on the results of the carbon assessment, it is abundantly clear that air travel (particularly business but also commuting) is the major issue requiring action to reduce HAI's carbon emissions. The report also identifies other areas in which emission reductions can be made, particularly homeworking, hotel stays and energy efficiency.

AMBITION

We have the ambition to drastically reduce our carbon emissions. Based on the results of the 2023 audit, this would be a **50% reduction** in carbon emissions **by 2035**.

However, changes in our projects and activities mean that this represents a moving target – for example we would by default travel less if we were to have fewer projects in Africa.

Therefore, we focus our attention on changing behaviours within the organisation that will have a lasting, structural impact on our carbon footprint.

As per the above, the greatest savings will be made by reducing the amount of air travel undertaken by HAI staff. For example, a 50% percent reduction in business air travel could equal savings of 29.5 tonnes of carbon, or one third of total emissions (based on 2023 results). Further savings can be made in changes to commuting behaviours and switching to green energy suppliers for both office and homeworking.

Actions to be taken as part of this roadmap are listed below.

CHANGING BEHAVIOURS

Short-term (12 months – 24 months)

Reducing business air travel by:

- Requiring a clear business case why travel is necessary (as opposed to online meetings etc.) when submitting travel request – with update to request form.
- Reviewing necessity of more than one member of staff on any single trip.
- Seeking opportunities to combine and consolidate trips. (e.g., combining a trip to DRC and Zambia could save 2.2 tonnes of CO₂).
- Seeking alternative (viable) routes and methods of transport (e.g., train for trips under six hours).
- Use the opportunity of new project workplans to reduce the number of face-to-face meetings planned with implementing partners, aided by improved and upgraded communications infrastructure (see below).
- Building infrastructure budgets into future funding applications so that our implementing partners have every necessary technology to take an active role in online activities. Often these are beyond the control of the partner and depend on country infrastructure, but we can make our partners IT ready.

Reducing hotel stays by:

- Reducing the number of trips to partner countries will have a knock-on effect for hotel stays. In addition:
- Avoiding overnight stays where possible (e.g., if a trip is less than three hours, returning the same day).

Medium-term (within 5 years)

Reduction in commuting flights:

- Phasing out of commuting flights.

More energy efficient office

- Installing/utilising heating and ventilation timers to match occupancy hours and reduce overheating during dead-times.
- Replacing any fluorescent or halogen lamps with low energy LED alternatives.

Switching to green energy contracts

- Seeking 100% green energy contract at point of office renewal.
- Encouraging/incentivising staff to take up green energy contracts at home.

Long-term (up to 10 years)

Greener transportation for staff commuting domestically

- Staff coming from longer distances encouraged/incentivised to use public transport.
- (Where not public transport not viable) use of electric vehicles.

MONITORING

Year 5

- Internal audit of progress of our behaviour change ambitions.
- External audit of carbon footprint based on current circumstances.

Year 10

- Full external audit of carbon footprint.