

Ecojustice Canada

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report for the 2020 Fiscal Year

November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020



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Key terms

For further terms, see Climate Smart’s [online glossary](#).

Baseline GHG Emissions Inventory: A comprehensive, quantified list of an organization’s greenhouse gas emissions and sources for the initial reporting year (base year). The baseline GHG inventory is the level of greenhouse gas emissions against which future GHG inventories are compared.

Biologically sequestered carbon: Long-term carbon stored in biomass, such as forests, soils and peatland. Carbon is “locked” into organic matter through biological processes. This carbon can be released through e.g. burning of biomass as fuel or change in land use.

Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e): The universal unit for comparing the emissions from various greenhouse gases. The carbon dioxide equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the mass of the gas by the associated global warming potential (GWP). For example, the GWP for methane is 21. This means that emissions of one metric tonne of methane are equivalent to the emissions of 21 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Carbon Offset: A project or activity that results in a given amount of greenhouse gases being avoided or reduced in one place, that is used to ‘balance out’ another’s total GHG emissions. Emission reductions that are real, additional (beyond business as usual), measurable, permanent, and verified can generate offset credits. Credits are tradable certificates.

Emission Factor: A factor that converts activity data to GHG emission values, e.g. lbs of carbon dioxide emitted per barrel of fossil fuel consumed.

Renewable energy certificates (RECs): RECs are tradable energy certificates representing proof that 1 megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity was generated from an eligible renewable energy resource (e.g. solar or wind) and was fed into the electricity grid.

Climate Smart at a glance

Climate Smart is an award-winning certified B Corp that has developed a practical and solutions-based program for SMEs to **profitably track and reduce GHG emissions**. Climate Smart emphasizes the business case for GHG reduction: **operational efficiencies, cost savings, and competitive advantage**.

Using an SME tailored approach, Climate Smart provides **innovative tools and programming** for our “host partners” on the front lines—cities, ports, airports, chambers, and financial institutions—to disrupt old economic trajectories and invest in more efficient technologies to deliver cleaner products and services.

Since 2007, Climate Smart has worked with 40+ host partners to engage close to 1000 businesses to prepare for and participate in the low-carbon economy. [Case studies](#) from a sampling of 78 Climate Smart businesses show a total **annual cost savings of \$2.6 million**.

Climate Smart also links SMEs to global impacts through harnessing the power of SME derived data to inform estimates of emissions from SMEs at different geographical scales, through our [Business Energy and Emissions Profiles](#) (BEEPs). Climate Smart was awarded the Grand Prize in the [2016 MIT Climate CoLab contest](#) and was judges’ choice in 2018 for our BEEPs. We have produced BEEPs for cities across Canada and the US. Our goal is to produce 100 BEEPs across North America.

950+

Climate Smart certified businesses to date (trained or in training)

5,148,000+

Total emissions measured by Climate Smart to date, in tonnes (t) CO₂e

21%

Average reduction if businesses see a reduction between two years

\$397

Projected cost savings to a business, per tonne CO₂e reduced

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Ecojustice Canada's 2020 fiscal year carbon footprint

This report details the greenhouse gas emissions footprint for Ecojustice Canada ("Ecojustice") during the 2020 fiscal year, including the breakdown of emissions by source activity and Ecojustice's plan to reduce their emissions going forwards. This report and inventory were compiled in compliance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol [Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard](#), Revised Edition.

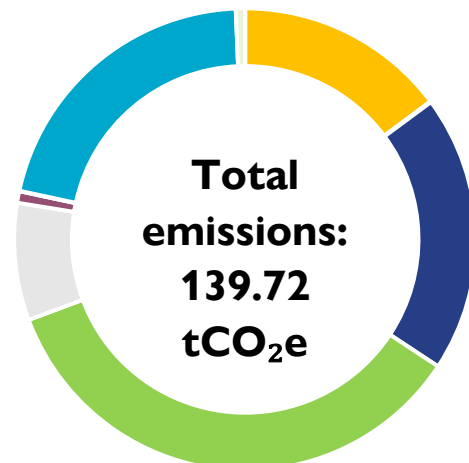
Compared to their 2011 baseline, Ecojustice have reduced their emissions by:



Ecojustice are working to reduce their GHG emissions from:

Paper use
Electricity
&
Transporting People

Total emissions for the 2020 fiscal year



- Scope 3 Electricity
- Scope 3 Garbage
- Scope 3 Heat
- Scope 3 Paper Consumption
- Scope 3 Staff Commuting
- Scope 3 Transporting People - Road
- Scope 3 Transporting People - Water
- Scope 3 Transporting People - Air
- Scope 3 Transporting People - Rail

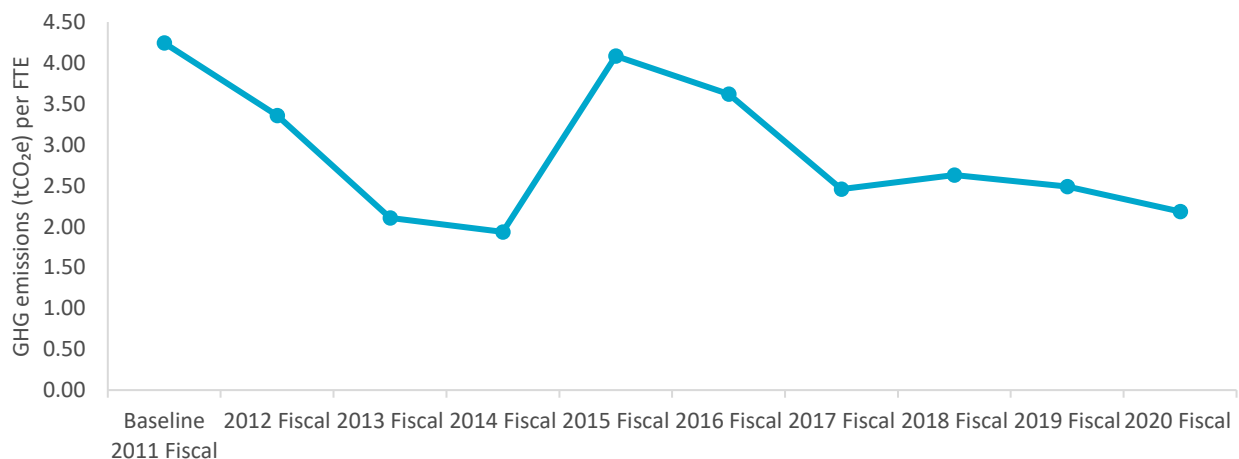
Ecojustice's reductions against their baseline are equivalent to 13 fewer passenger vehicles driven for a year.

13 X



¹Source: [EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#)

Total emissions from baseline to the 2020 Fiscal year per FTE



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Analysis

Ecojustice Canada (Ecojustice) measured its 10th greenhouse gas inventory with Climate Smart for the 2020 fiscal year (November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020) and recorded emissions of 139.72 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). Overall, Ecojustice's **emissions decreased by 30% (59.73 tCO₂e) since their baseline year (2010-2011)**, with the majority of the reductions occurring in heating and air travel. Ecojustice is Climate Smart certified for 2020.

The following sections present the breakdown of Ecojustice's emissions for their 2020 fiscal year inventory by scope, as well as details of any emissions of CO₂ from combustion of biologically sequestered carbon and purchased offsets and renewable energy certificates (RECs).

Scope 1

There are no scope 1 activities relevant to Ecojustice's emissions. Ecojustice does not operate company owned vehicles or hold operational control over heating sources from the combustion of fuel.

Scope 2

Ecojustice recorded no Scope 2 emissions for the 2020 fiscal year. Ecojustice does not hold operational control of lighting or electric heating at any of its locations.

Activity	Baseline 2011 Fiscal (tCO ₂ e)	2020 Fiscal (tCO ₂ e)	Absolute Change (tCO ₂ e)	% Change	Justifications & Additional Notes
Scope 2					
Electricity	17.58	0.00	-17.58	-100%	
Grand Total	17.58	0.00	-17.58	-100%	

Scope 3

Scope 3 emissions totalled 139.72 tCO₂e in Ecojustice's 2020 fiscal year, **down by 23% since their baseline year**. The majority of the reductions occurred in Transporting People (Road, Air, and Water).

Activity	Baseline 2011 Fiscal (tCO ₂ e)	2020 Fiscal (tCO ₂ e)	Absolute Change (tCO ₂ e)	% Change	Justifications & Additional Notes
Scope 3					
Electricity	0.00	20.70	20.70	0%	Since their baseline year, Ecojustice has moved their offices to ones that do not provide operational control over electricity.
Heat	36.05	27.10	-8.95	-25%	
Garbage	1.49	0.08	-1.41	-95%	
Paper Consumption	21.06	48.99	27.93	133%	Large increase due to change in Climate Smart methodology for calculating paper emissions.
Staff Commuting	9.80	11.46	1.66	17%	
Transporting People - Road	4.41	1.14	-3.27	-74%	Reductions mostly due to COVID-19
Transporting People - Air	107.81	29.30	-78.51	-73%	Reductions mostly due to COVID-19
Transporting People - Water	0.41	0.04	-0.37	-90%	Reductions mostly due to COVID-19
Transporting People - Rail	0.85	0.91	0.06	7%	
Grand Total	181.87	139.72	-42.15	-23%	

Release of sequestered carbon

There was no reported release of sequestered carbon.

Offsets & renewable energy certificates

Ecojustice did not purchase offsets or renewable energy certificates in the 2020 fiscal year.



Ecojustice's emissions reduction plan

To date, Ecojustice has worked to minimize their emissions by focusing on strategies aimed at employee engagement and paper use, paper use, and staff engagement. Ecojustice's current reduction plan is shown below.

Category	Strategy	Considering	Planned	Implemented
Electricity	Make use of natural lighting as much as possible		June 2021	
	Use standby settings on electronics			March 2018
	Set computers to power saving mode		June 2019	
	Put up signage to help people remember to turn off lights and equipment			June 2018
	Regularly monitor your usage through your online account with your utility provider to identify inefficiencies			January 2016
	Implement a policy that all office-based equipment and lighting is turned off when not in use	June 2019		
	Replace incandescent lightbulbs with light-emitting diodes	June 2018		
	Replace desktop computers with laptops at their end of life			October 2018
	Moved Toronto office into a LEED building			October 2015
	Reminders to power down power bar (especially at the beginning of summer before going away on vacation).		June 2021	
Heat	Install programmable thermostats			2017
	Thermostats already implemented in Vancouver. Toronto and Ottawa do not have ability to control the thermostat.			2018
Transportation	Engage employees to consider lower carbon modes of travel where possible for business trips			2016
	Promote public transit by providing (discounted) transit passes to employees			2014
	Allow employees to telecommute		June 2021	
	Reduce business travel through the use of teleconferencing / videoconferencing			2015
	Participate in Ride-to-Work Week or similar programs			2017
	Provide bicycle parking			2017
	Source from local / regional suppliers whenever possible		June 2021	
	Transport goods with an eco-friendly shipping company			July 2019
	Create new travel policy developed by leadership team			June 2019
	Maximize necessary travel. Combine trips to avoid unnecessary travel (i.e. 2 meetings / one flight) – most staff are good about maximizing their trips			November 2016
Revisit telecommuting policy – post - COVID		June 2021		
Paper	Put up signage to increase staff paper awareness		June 2021	
	Reduce paper consumption during meetings			March 2017
	Re-use paper			September 2019

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Category	Strategy	Considering	Planned	Implemented	
	Set computer defaults to double-sided printing			2015	
	Switch from paper to electronic invoicing, where possible			January 2018	
	Switch from paper to electronic file storage			June 2017	
	Employ a fax to email service			2017	
	Purchase paper with recycled content			2015	
	Switch donor reports from paper to online versions – too many donors rely on paper versions. Instead, making smaller runs at printer and monitoring so that we do not end up with excess. Potentially having the option to switch to electronic reports.			Planned 2021	
	Advertise the availability of one-sided 'draft' paper – place next to printer for drafts or 'printer test paper'				October 2019
	Stop junk mail / unwanted magazines from LawPro etc.				2016
Waste	Increase waste diversion from landfill through improved signage and other employee engagement activities			2018	
	Expand recycling program to include soft plastics			2017	
	Invest in an on-site composter/digester for organic waste			2017	
	Participate in Staples' recycling program for pens and markers			October 2019	
Employee engagement	Communicate to staff why your company is getting Climate Smart certified and how they can get involved		June 2021		
	Solicit ideas for greening operations from staff			June 2018	
	Install a green board to communicate GHG emissions reduction initiatives and other sustainability-related activities	August 2021			
	Establish an employee green team to help develop and coordinate GHG emissions reduction initiatives			December 2018	
	Develop and include sustainability policy in operations and/or employee manual	2021			
	Regularly report to staff on GHG emissions reduction initiatives and progress	2019			
Offsets & renewable energy certificates	We considered buying carbon offsets, but it was decided it is not a good option for Ecojustice as it costs money, and since we're a charity, spending extra money is not ideal (too expensive).				

Going forwards, Ecojustice will continue to work to reduce their emissions through strategies aimed at electricity, paper use, and staff engagement.

Methodology

As a Climate Smart certified business, Ecojustice conducted its GHG emissions inventory according to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol [Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard](#), Revised Edition. The GHG Protocol is an internationally recognized standard published by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council on Sustainable Development.

Organizational Boundaries

Ecojustice used the operational control approach to determine its organizational boundary and included in its inventory all operations over which it has operational control. Unmetered/unbilled electricity and heat were identified as Scope 3 emissions as Ecojustice does not hold operational control of lighting or heating at any of its facilities.

Inventory Boundaries

The GHG Protocol requires the inclusion of Scope 1 and 2 emissions, and suggests including Scope 3 emissions from activities relevant to an organization's business and goals, and for which reliable data can be obtained. Ecojustice included emissions from the following activities under Scopes 1, 2 and 3:

- **Scope 1:** includes direct GHG emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the reporting company or organization
 - None
- **Scope 2:** includes indirect GHG emissions from purchased electricity and purchased heat
 - None
- **Scope 3:** includes indirect GHG emissions that are consequences of the reporting company's operations but occur at sources owned by another company
 - unmetered/unbilled electricity and heat;
 - business travel;
 - garbage;
 - paper consumption; and
 - staff commuting.

Scope 3 emissions from delivery of goods were excluded from the inventory.

Emission factors

This inventory was conducted using the emissions factors from the Climate Smart web-based greenhouse gas management tool. The Climate Smart GHG management tool was designed for adherence to the GHG Protocol. Climate Smart's emission factors come from a variety of sources, such as Environment Canada, the GHG Protocol Initiative, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Climate Smart reviews its emission factors annually to update them based on refined industry methodology and changing electricity grids.

Climate Smart also acknowledges that complete adherence to the Protocol requires the seven major greenhouse gases to be accounted for separately, and is working towards adding this feature at a future date. Further details on Climate Smart's emission factors, their sources, and methodology for updating them are available upon request to info@climatesmartbusiness.com.



Sources of data included

Ecojustice used the following sources of data to estimate their greenhouse gas emissions for the 2020 fiscal year:

Activity	Data source
Electricity > Unmetered/Unbilled	The square footage occupied was entered to estimate electricity emissions using the average provincial intensity.
Heat > Unmetered/Unbilled from Electricity	The square footage occupied was entered to estimate heating emissions using the average provincial intensity.
Heat > Unmetered/Unbilled from Fuel	The square footage occupied was entered to estimate heating emissions using the average provincial intensity.
Transporting People > Vehicles owned by others > Air	The total kilometers travelled were entered by type of flight (short-, medium-, or long-haul).
Transporting People > Vehicles owned by others > Rail	The total kilometers travelled were entered.
Transporting People > Vehicles owned by others > Road	The total kilometers travelled were entered.
Transporting People > Vehicles owned by others > Water	The number of BC Ferry trips was entered for each route.
Staff Commuting	The distance commuted by each mode of transport was entered based on staff commuting survey.
Garbage	The total estimated weight of garbage was entered into the Climate Smart tool.
Paper Consumption	The paper type, paper bond weight, number of reams used and post-consumer recycled content were entered. The paperweight and paper type were entered into the paper calculator (http://papercalculator.org) to calculate emissions.

Recalculation

Climate Smart recommends a recalculation of baseline emissions if a change occurs that would equate to a change equal to or greater than five percent of company's total annual emissions. Situations triggering recalculation include: structural changes (e.g. the acquisition or divestment of business units); changes in calculation methodology or improvements in accuracy of emission factors/activity data; or discovery of significant or cumulative errors.

No recalculation was required for Ecojustice's Fiscal 2020 inventory.

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