

carboNZero Certification

Minimising our impact on the planet



Our Hostels

Achieving carbon neutrality



National HI Association

YHA New Zealand

Hostels

All YHA New Zealand Managed Hostels

SDG Contribution



Summary

Undertaking a long term commitment to reducing our carbon emissions through improved hostel facilities, staff and customer behaviours, measuring these activities and promoting our commitment.

What does "carbon neutral" mean and what is the carboNZero certification?

Being carbon neutral is a term that's thrown around a lot, but the idea is that for an organisation, the amount of equivalent carbon dioxide emitted equals zero. This might seem impossible, but it can happen through a process of measuring activities that contribute to equivalent carbon emissions, reducing them and offsetting remaining emissions via a certified third party. This is where carboNZeroCert™ certification comes in.

Objectives

To minimise our carbon footprint, save money through reduced energy consumption, meet our organisational values and be authentic to our brand and customer expectations.

Economic

Local carbon credit provider
Cost reduction
Customer and brand loyalty
Staff retention

Social

Local collaboration
Guest education boards
Community project engagement

Environmental

Current reduction in carbon footprint
Future Commitment to a minimum annual 5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
Supporting the regrowth of native forest on Banks Peninsula



Methodology

How did we do it?

Measuring

YHA has been measuring our carbon emissions, water usage, waste diversion for over a decade. We brought [Enviro-Mark Solutions](#) on board to help us refine our measures in accordance with international ISO standards. We measure all our activity with our managed network of 14 hostels plus our National Office. This gives us a solid baseline and identifies where we can focus our efforts to make the greatest reductions.

Reducing

We've committed to a 5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for the relevant parts of our organisation, but we'll be happy if we can manage to top that! We know that electricity is our biggest source of emissions, so we plan to continue investing in initiatives like solar and geothermal power. However a great deal of reductions can be made through improved plant refurbishments such as hot water reticulation, upgrading insulation, double glazing and cooking facilities.

Offsetting

Offsetting our greenhouse gas emissions means putting our money where our mouth is and purchasing carbon credits to offset what we do produce. There are a number of carbon credit providers both in New Zealand and overseas. International options are 5 times cheaper than domestic ones but we've chosen to stay local and support the regrowth of native forest on Banks Peninsula through the [Hinewai Trust](#). We also offer guests the opportunity to do their bit and offset their carbon footprint through [the Green Footprint Project](#).

Why did we do it?

First and foremost, we did it because it's the right thing to do. Climate change is one of the biggest issues facing the world today and we think it's our responsibility to do what we can to help. YHA New Zealand was founded on a love of the outdoors, which means we're pretty determined to protect the awesome environment New Zealand has to offer too.

We also have a triple-bottom line reporting structure, which means environmental sustainability and responsible tourism are at the core of how we operate.

Technical details

Funding: 100% by YHA New Zealand

Target audience: HI Members/ Guests/ Staff/General Public

Reach: International

Frequency: Continual improvement

Duration: Ongoing

Risks: Yes, requires commitment



Partners involved: EnviroMark - www.enviro-mark.com Sunshine Solar, Meridian Energy, Local community organisations

Communication plan: eNewsletter/ Social media / website / Press releases

Estimated number of participants:

Guests: unknown

Staff: 180

Community groups: 10

External Partners: 12

Partner's satisfaction: 100%

Hostel/Association's satisfaction with the activity: 100%

What would you change or do differently?

Nothing

Would like to know more about this initiative?

Contact: Brian Westwood, Manager Marketing & Sales

Email: brian.westwood@yha.co.nz

Read more about the carbonZero certification at YHA New Zealand [here](#) and about their Sustainability Policy, initiatives and Commitment [here](#).





This is to certify that

Youth Hostels Association of New Zealand Incorporated

Meets requirements of carboNZero^{Cert™} certification having measured its greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the requirements of ISO 14064-1:2006, committed to managing and reducing its emissions and neutralised its remaining unavoidable emissions through the cancellation of an appropriate number of verified carbon credits in respect of the operational activities of its organisation, excluding associate hostels.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Belinda Mathers", is written over a horizontal line.

Belinda Mathers - Certifier

Company Address: Level 1, 166 Moorhouse Avenue, Addington, Christchurch 8011 New Zealand

Certificate Number: 2016081J

Date Issued: 23 September 2016

Valid until: 23 September 2019

Certification status: Certified organisation

Certification Year Level of Assurance: Reasonable

JAS-ANZ



WWW.JAS-ANZ.ORG/REGISTER

Certified by Enviro-Mark Solutions Limited

Please refer to the disclosure page on www.enviro-mark.com for further details

carboNZero is an annual certification programme and this certificate only remains valid with an annual surveillance audit



ENVIRO-MARK
SOLUTIONS



Summary of carboNZero certification

Youth Hostels Association of New Zealand Incorporated

Year 1 of 3 year certificate period



Youth Hostels Association of New Zealand Incorporated meets the requirements of carboNZero^{cert}™ certification having measured its greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the requirements of ISO 14064-1:2006, committed to managing and reducing its emissions and neutralised its remaining unavoidable emissions through the cancellation of an appropriate number of verified carbon credits in respect of the operational activities of its organisation, excluding associate hostels.



Introduction¹ – YHA New Zealand is a registered charitable organisation and an incorporated society which has been operating in New Zealand since 1932. YHA New Zealand’s mission is to deliver quality budget accommodation and travel experiences which enrich people’s understanding of each other, the environment, and New Zealand.

In working to achieve its mission, YHA New Zealand is committed to:

- operating in a sustainable manner, reflected in a people, planet, profit (triple bottom line) commitment;
- developing and maintaining relationships with Maori which recognise their indigenous status in New Zealand;
- living our values; all staff expressing and embracing our values of integrity, respect, excellence and passion, in all activities and relationships.

YHA New Zealand makes sustainability central to the way we run the organisation. We are committed to operating an environmentally responsible tourism business which contributes to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of New Zealand. Working sustainability is a way of thinking for all our staff and we remain committed to caring for the environment which underpins the New Zealand tourism industry.

Boundary – Figure 1 below shows the organisational structure used for describing the organisation’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory, and what business units were included (within the green box) in the inventory in the context of the entire organisational profile. YHA NZ has an investment property in Wellington that we do not include in this inventory. YHA Associate and Franchise Hostels are also excluded from this inventory.

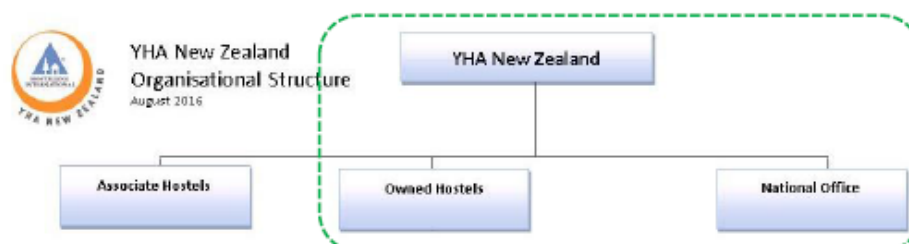


Figure 1: Organisational structure showing business units included and excluded.

Consolidation approach – The operational control consolidation approach has been used to account for operational emissions with reference to the methodology described in the GHG Protocol and ISO 14064-1:2006 standards.

¹ Disclaimer: This Disclosure Statement is a summary of the verified information considered for certification and the certification decision. It should not be taken to represent the full submission for certification. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this Disclosure Statement is accurate and complete, Enviro-Mark Solutions Limited does not, to the maximum extent permitted by law, give any warranty or guarantee relating to the accuracy or reliability of the information.



Summary of carboNZero certification



Youth Hostels Association of New Zealand Incorporated

Year 1 of 3 year certificate period

Base year – 01/07/2015 to 30/06/2016

Measurement period – 01/07/2015 to 30/06/2016

Emissions source inclusions – The operational GHG emissions for the organisation by emissions source are shown in Figure 2 below.

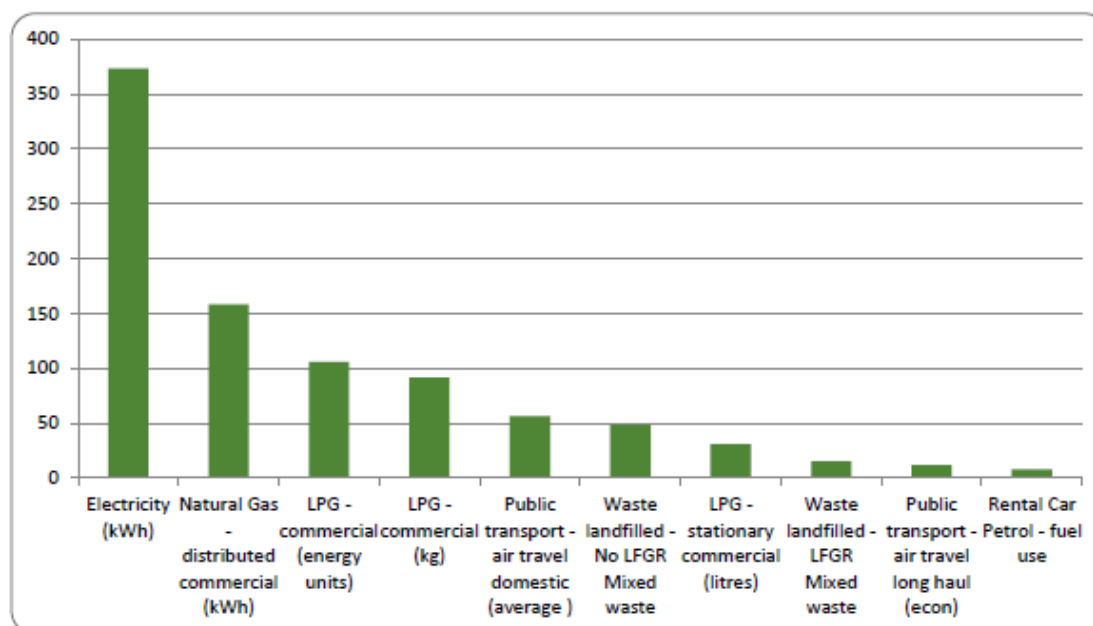


Figure 2: GHG emissions by emissions source (tCO₂e).

Emissions as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO₂e) for this period were:

Emissions summary by scopes		Units
Scope 1 total	398.37	tCO ₂ e
Scope 2 total	373.31	tCO ₂ e
Scope 3 total	142.39	tCO ₂ e
Mandatory scope 3	142.39	tCO ₂ e
Additional scope 3	0.00	tCO ₂ e
One-time scope 3	0.00	tCO ₂ e
Total inventory:	914.06	tCO₂e

Emissions source exclusions – The following emissions sources were excluded from the inventory for this measurement period:

- Bore water extraction from geothermal well in Rotorua: investigated potential emission and conclusion was that for the nature of this activity emissions would be negligible.

Emissions reduction commitments – A GHG emissions management plan and reduction targets have been developed with an overall target of 5% reduction in total emissions (i.e. all mandatory emissions measured) per bednight by 2018. Some reduction projects include:

- Reduce electricity and gas through continued installation of solar power, hot water, and double glazing across the hostel network
- Reduce air travel by increasing use of video conferencing

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Summary of carboNZero certification

Youth Hostels Association of New Zealand Incorporated

Year 1 of 3 year certificate period



- Reduce waste to landfill by installing new recycling collection bins across the network that are easier for guests to separate out their rubbish and recycling.

Offset – 915 PFSI Hinewai Forest (NZ) credits have been cancelled on the carboNZero register and will be cancelled (or equivalent) on the relevant external registry within one month of certification. Specific details of cancellation, including serial numbers, will be available on the external registry: www.epa.govt.nz/e-m-t/reports/Pages/Voluntary-unit-cancellations.aspx.

Verified by – Enviro-Mark Solutions Limited

Data quality score – High

Threshold of materiality – Excluded emissions do not exceed 5% of the total footprint within the organisation boundary stated.

Level of assurance – Reasonable

Certification status – carboNZero certified organisation

Certificate number – 2016081J, Year 1 of 3 year certificate period

Valid until – 23 September 2019

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