



Ricardo
Energy & Environment

Benbecula Airport Carbon Footprint 2021

In accordance with the UK Government's Conversion Factors
for Company Reporting

Report for Highlands and Islands Airports Limited



Highlands and Islands
Airports Limited
Puir-adhair na Gàidhealtachd
is nan Eilean Earranta

Included Emissions Sources

The following emissions sources are included in the 2021 carbon footprint for Benbecula Airport:

Scope 1: Direct emissions:

- Fuels burnt on site (boilers, generators, ground support equipment, fire training)
- Refrigerant gas losses
- Airport de-icer

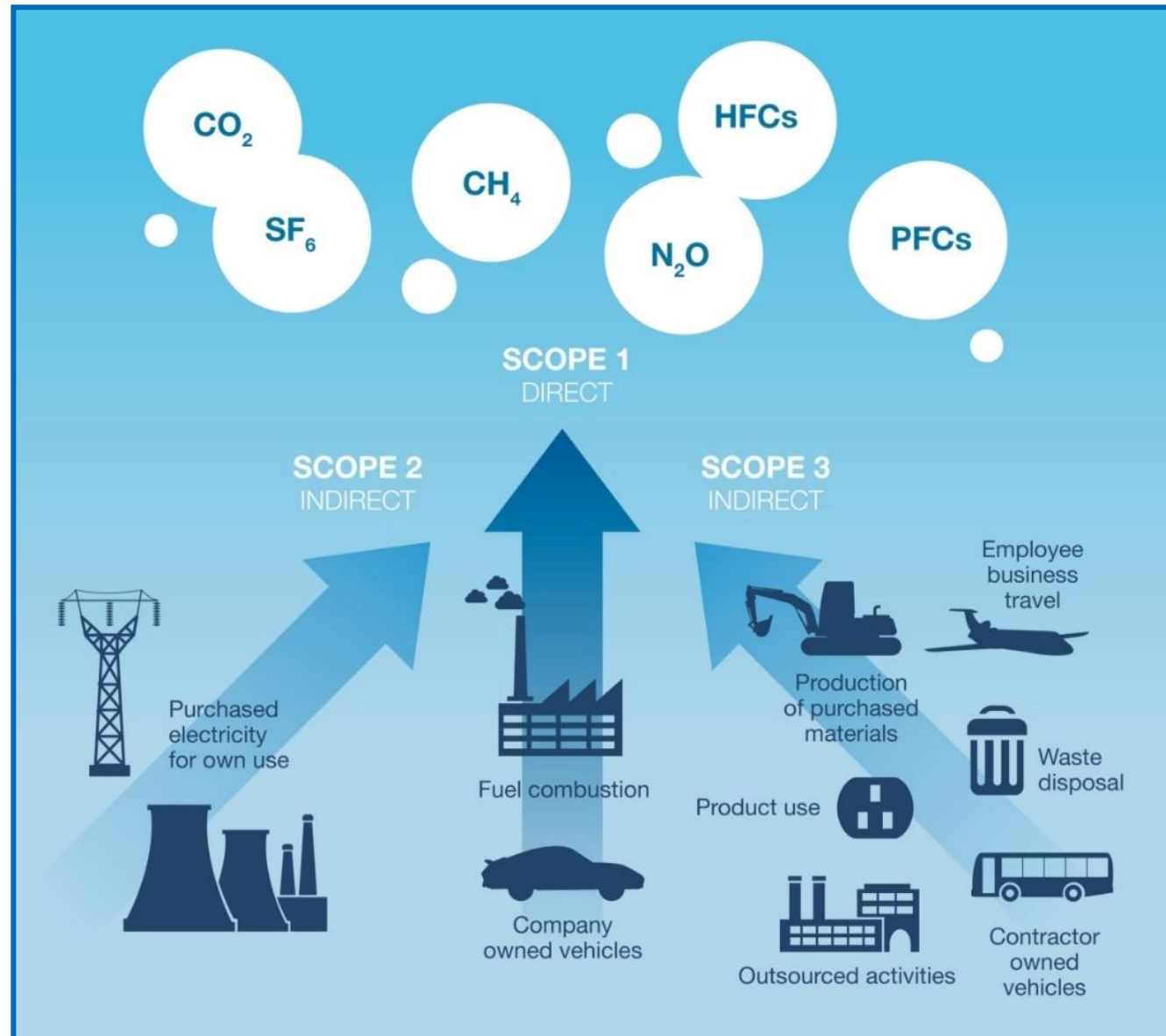
Scope 2: Indirect emissions:

- Purchased electricity

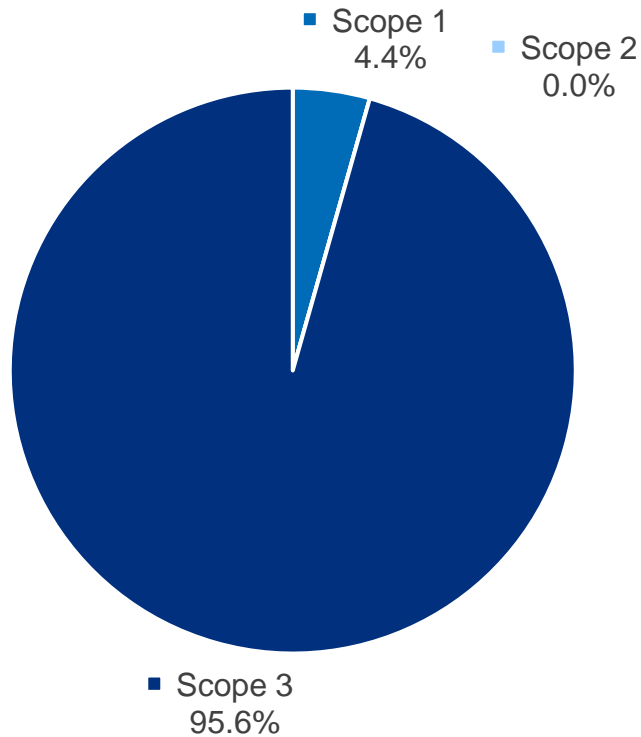
Scope 3: Indirect emissions:

- 3rd party de-icer
- Tenant energy
- Aircraft movements: LTO cycle and CCD
- Business travel
- Water supply and wastewater treatment
- Staff commute
- Passenger surface access
- Waste (disposal and virgin material production)

The above sources of emissions were captured for the period April 2020-March 2021 but are hereafter referred to as 2021 in this report.



Key Stats - Carbon Emissions by Scope 2021



	Total 2021 emissions (tCO ₂ e)	% of total emissions
Scope 1	75	4.4%
Scope 2	0	0.0%
Scope 3	1,621	95.6%
Outside of Scopes	0	0%
Total	1,695	100%

Scope 1:

Emissions on-site, or an associated process, from the combustion of fossil fuels, e.g. natural gas, oil, LPG and company-owned vehicles.

Scope 2:

Emissions associated with the use of electricity imported from the grid or from a third party supplier of energy in the form of heat or electricity.

Scope 3:

Emissions arising as a direct consequence of the use of goods or services provided by the company. For Benbecula this would be the operation of the airport. Sources include aircraft movements, passenger and staff travel to the airport, airside activities, waste disposal, water and business travel.

Outside of scope emissions:

Outside of scope emissions account for the direct carbon dioxide (CO₂) impact of burning biomass and biofuels. The emissions are labelled 'outside of scope' because the Scope 1 impact of these fuels has been determined to be a net '0'.

Key Stats- Annual Comparison



From 2020 to 2021 total Scope 1 emissions have decreased by 9%. Total Scope 2 emissions for market based reporting have decreased by 15%.

Scope 3 emissions saw a 41% reduction in emissions. Airport electricity usage, waste, staff commute, passenger access and business travel all produced significantly less emissions in 2021 than in 2020.

	Total 2020 emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Total 2021 emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Percentage change (%)
Marked Based			
Scope 1	82	75	-9%
Scope 2	0	0	0%
Scope 3	2,728	1,621	-41%
Total (inc OOS)	2,812	1,695	-40%
Location Based			
Scope 1	82	75	-9%
Scope 2	123	105	-15%
Scope 3	2,728	1,621	-41%
Total (inc OOS)	2,935	1,800	-39%

Key Stats - Intensity Metrics



Intensity metrics demonstrate the emission rate of a given pollutant (CO₂e) in relation to a specific activity/process. This allows for a fair comparison of activities for airports of varying sizes, who may produce significantly different levels of absolute emissions.

For the HIAL airports, the intensity metrics calculated are kgCO₂e/PAX (PAX = passenger) and kgCO₂e/ATM (ATM = air traffic movement), for both location and market based Scope 2 methodologies.

When comparing the 11 HIAL airports' emissions intensity factors from the least to the most intensive (market based Scope 2), Benbecula ranks 10th for aircraft movement emissions intensity and 8th for passenger emissions intensity.

	2020	2021
ATM (Air Traffic Movements)	3,360	2,358
PAX	35,161	15,155

Scope 1 & 2 (tCO₂e) Location Based Scope 2	205	179
kgCO₂e/ATM	61.0	76.0
kgCO₂e/PAX	5.8	11.8

Scope 1 & 2 (tCO₂e) Market Based Scope 2	82	75
kgCO₂e/ATM	24.4	31.6
kgCO₂e/PAX	2.3	4.9

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HIAL is a public corporation owned by the Scottish Ministers and subsidised by the Scottish Government in accordance with Section 34 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982. HIAL operates and manages 11 airports in total; Barra, Benbecula, Campbeltown, Dundee, Inverness, Islay, Kirkwall, Stornoway, Sumburgh, Tiree and Wick. Benbecula served 15,155 passengers with a total of 2,358 aircraft movements in the 2021 financial year.

The calculation of the annual carbon footprint will help HIAL and the individual airports understand the different areas which contribute to their overall carbon footprint and monitor changes on a yearly basis. HIAL has committed to creating a Net Zero Aviation Zone by 2040 and so this process will help identify improvement opportunities, which will ultimately reduce HIAL Airports' carbon footprint and associated costs. In addition, the carbon footprint will also form the baseline for emission reduction targets, allowing HIAL to measure the success of any management strategies implemented.

Carbon Emissions by Source and Activity - 1



Benbecula Airport's emissions can be broken down by activity as seen in the table below.

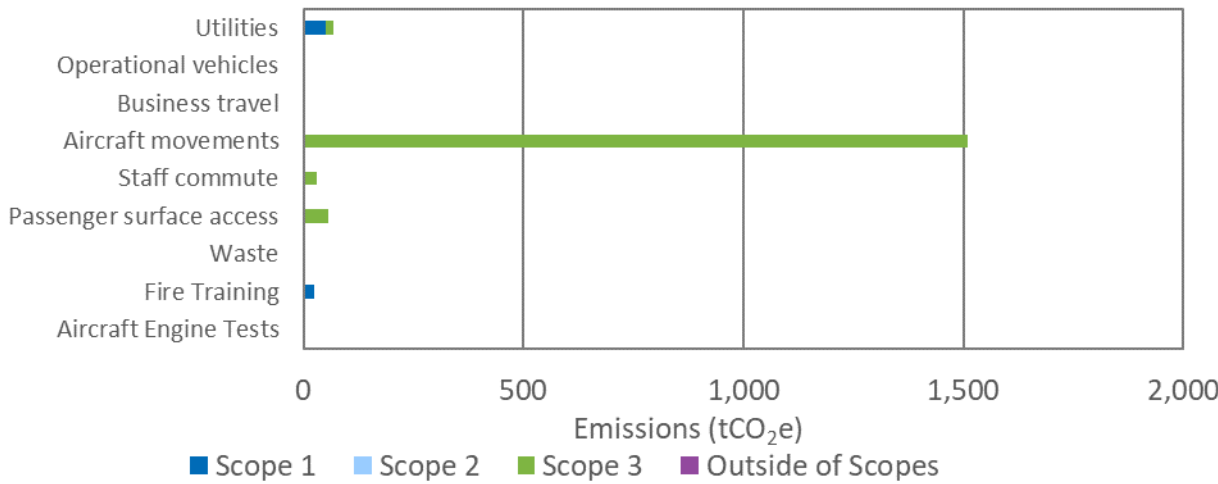
- Unless specified otherwise, emissions are reported under a Market Based methodology
- Utilities includes electricity consumption (Scope 2) as well as heating fuels, refrigerant usage (Scope 1) and de-icer usage (Scope 3)
- The HIAL group provided a supplier statement that determines all electricity is supplied from renewable sources. This results in Scope 2 emissions of 0 tCO₂e under a Market Based reporting methodology

By source and scope	Scope 1 (tCO ₂ e)	Scope 2 (tCO ₂ e)	Scope 3 (tCO ₂ e)	Outside of Scopes (tCO ₂ e)	Total (tCO ₂ e)	% of total emissions
Utilities	51	0	17	0	68	4.0%
Ground support equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Business travel	0	0	3	0	3	0.2%
Aircraft movements	0	0	1511	0	1511	89.1%
Staff commute	0	0	30	0	30	1.8%
Passenger surface access	0	0	56	0	56	3.3%
Waste	0	0	3	0	3	0.2%
Fire Training	24	0	0	0	24	1.4%
Total	92	0	1,621	0	1,695	100.0%

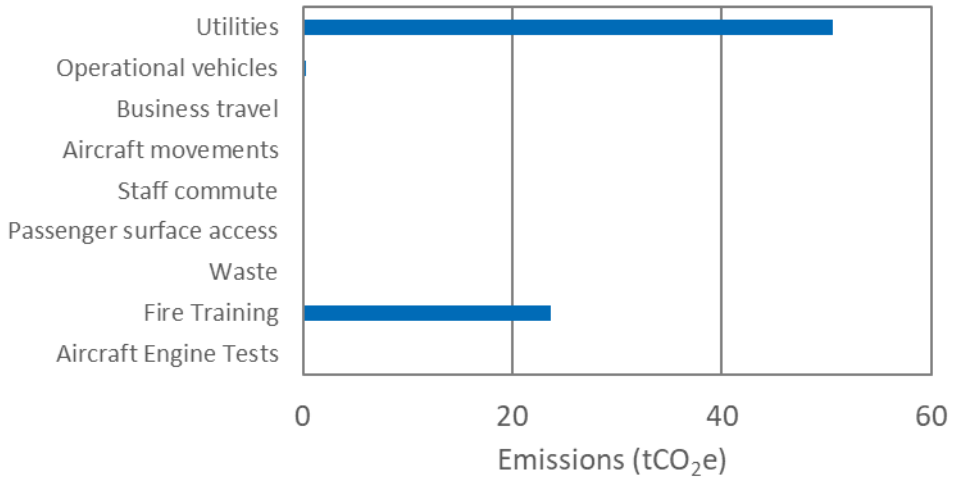
Carbon Emissions by Source and Activity- 2



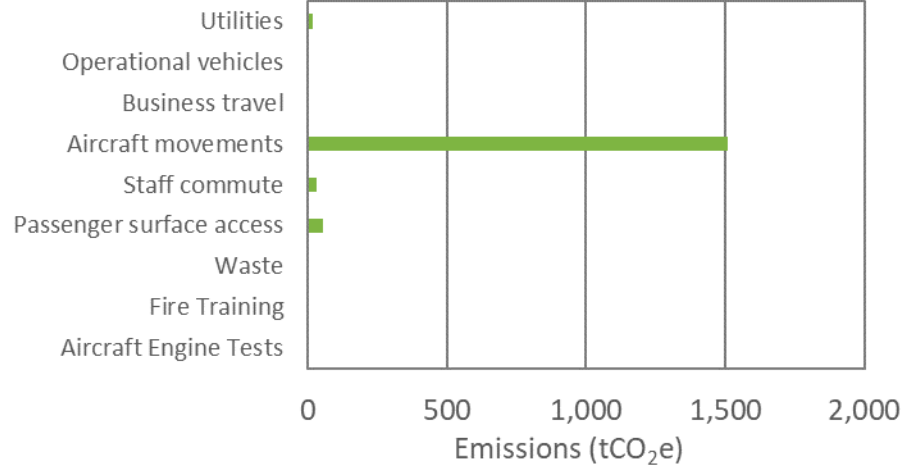
Scopes 1, 2 & 3



Scope 1



Scope 3



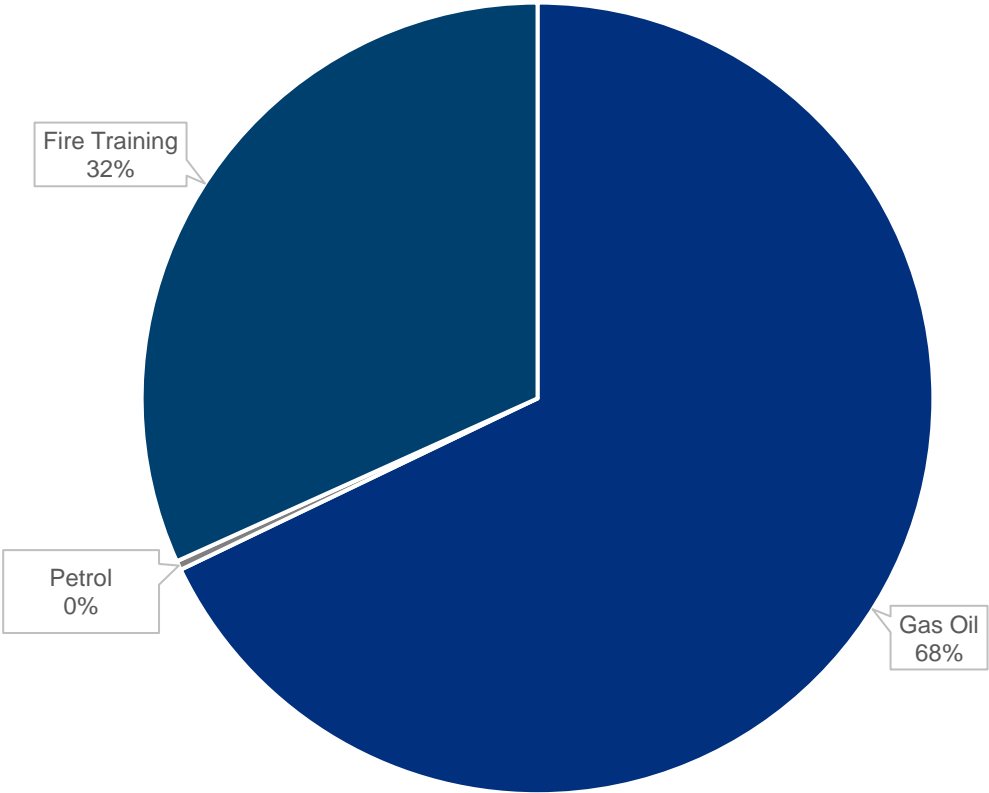
Scope 1 Emissions Sources - 1



Scope 1 = 75 tCO₂e (4.4% of Total)

Scope 1 emissions are under the direct control of the airport, such as: Heating fuels for combustion, Glycol based de-icer, refrigerant gas use and wood for fire training.

Benbecula's Scope 1 emissions are derived from gas oil used as a utility and refrigerant gases, ground support equipment, as well as petrol used in ground support equipment and kerosene emissions as a result of fire training.



Scope 2 = 0 tCO₂e (0.0% of Total)

Scope 2 emissions relate to the electricity consumption at the airport. These can be calculated as:

- Location-based method; this reflects the average emissions intensity of macro-scale (regional/national) electricity grids where energy consumption occurs. Companies reporting using this method should use the regional/National Grid average emission factor. In the UK, this would be sourced from the Defra/DECC UK Government conversion factors for Company Reporting.
- Market-based method; this reflects the emissions from the electricity that a company is purchasing. Energy suppliers in the EU are already required, by law, to disclose to consumers the fuel mix and GHG emissions associated with their portfolio or tariffs. This airport selects to purchase energy that is greener than the National Grid average emissions factor. The advantage of procuring energy that is higher in renewable energy sources than that of the National Grid average emissions factor is outlined in the table below.

	Location-based (tCO ₂ e)	Market-based (tCO ₂ e)
Airport Electricity Emissions (Scope 2)	105	0

- Here, market-based emissions are zero because the airport purchased 100% green electricity from its energy suppliers. A supplier statement provided for the year April 2020 – March 2021 states that all electricity purchased is from renewable sources and is supplied by REGO's.

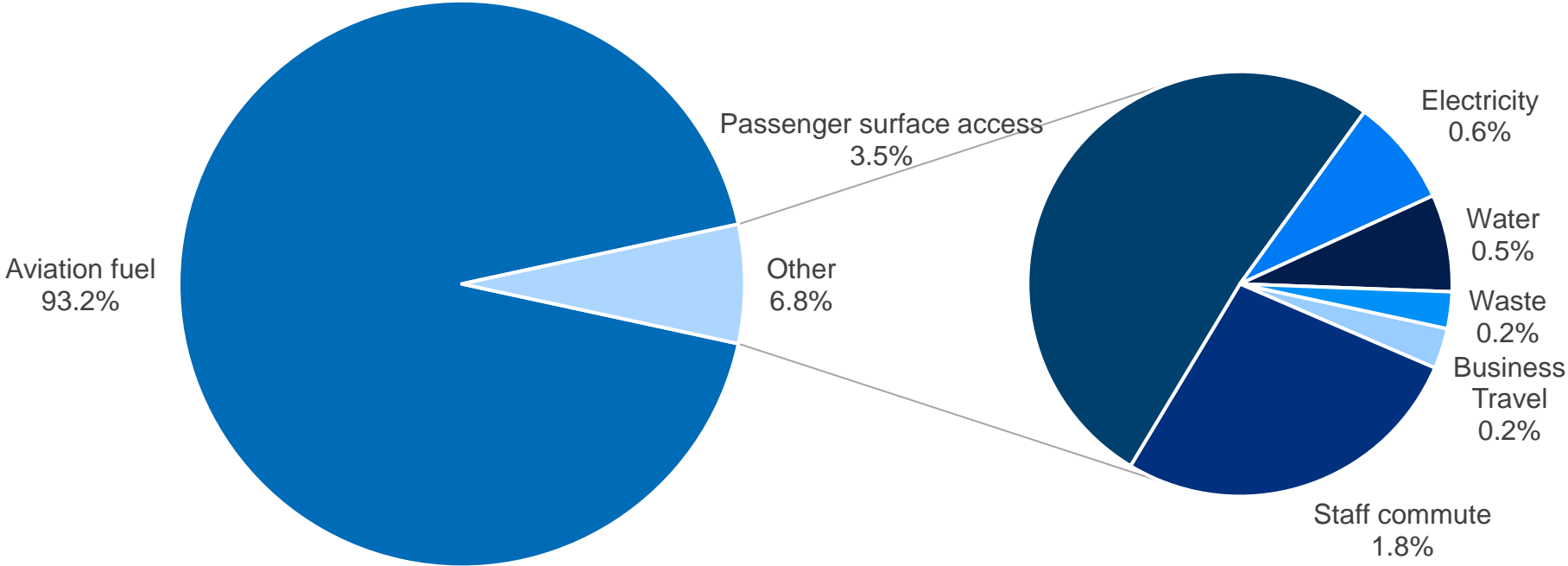
Scope 3 Emissions Sources



Scope 3 = 1,621 tCO₂e (97% of Total)

Unlike Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, emissions categorised as Scope 3 are not generally under the direct control of the airport.

Scope 3 emissions at Benbecula airport can be largely attributed to aviation fuel and passenger surface access. Aviation fuel is used throughout the Landing Take-Off (LTO) and Climb, Cruise and Descent (CCD) cycles in aircraft movements, as well as in fire training.



**Electricity emissions are from transmission and distribution only under market based reporting

The table below shows a full breakdown of all emissions sources at Benbecula airport. All emissions figures are in tCO₂e.

Source	Scope 1 (tCO ₂ e)	Scope 2 (tCO ₂ e)	Scope 3 (tCO ₂ e)	Outside of Scopes (tCO ₂ e)	Total Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	% of Total Emissions
Aviation fuel	0.0	0.0	1511.0	0.0	1511.0	89.1%
Business Travel	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	3.4	0.2%
Staff commute	0.0	0.0	29.8	0.0	29.8	1.8%
Passenger surface access	0.0	0.0	56.3	0.0	56.3	3.3%
Diesel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Electricity	0.0	0.0	9.0	0.0	9.0	0.5%
Gas Oil	50.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.6	3.0%
Petrol	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0%
Water	0.0	0.0	8.1	0.0	8.1	0.5%
Waste	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	3.1	0.2%
Fire Training	23.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.7	1.4%
Grand Total	75	0	1621	0	1695	

Annual Emissions Trends

The following sources experienced the largest absolute decrease in emissions from 2020, likely due to impacts from the COVID pandemic:

- Aviation fuel emissions decreased by 39%.
- Passenger surface access emissions reduced by 59%

The following sources experienced an increase in emissions from 2020 despite the COVID pandemic:

- Gas oil consumption increased by 7%, due to increased consumption for utility purposes
- Fire training emissions increased by over 100% due to increased consumption of kerosene

Recommendations for improving your GHG footprint



Recommendation	Benefit
Develop infographic of carbon emissions	Infographics can be used to increase staff awareness of HIAL's carbon footprint and drive internal engagement, or be used to demonstrate to the public the good work being carried out to address the airport's carbon emissions.
Improve data collection processes & accuracy	Devise a uniform data collection process for all airports to accurately track and monitor emissions sources (e.g. fire training fuel use).
Implement a data collection process for fuels used onsite by third parties	Devise a uniform data collection process for all third parties operating on site to accurately track and monitor emissions sources.
Provide evidence that does not require assumptions	Evidence such as employee commuting surveys that have gaps e.g. have not been populated with responses, should be addressed through data cleaning exercises. For example, surveys could notify the respondent when they have not answered a question correctly. This will result in a more robust data collection process that doesn't require assumptions to be made.
Capture data on passenger surface access	Consider conducting a survey for passenger surface access. At present, emission estimates are based on assumptions.
Collect data for aircraft engine testing	At present, no information on engine testing is recorded. Ideally, the provided data should include: Engine type, engine UID number, number of engines tested, time at low thrust, time at high thrust.

Recommendations for improving your GHG footprint



Recommendation	Benefit
Provide an auditable trail for consumption figures	At present, some data on consumption of fuels has been provided through email correspondences e.g. fire training, ground support equipment/ GSE. To improve the data accuracy and improve the audit trail, this should be provided through invoices, supplier statements, etc. instead.
Provide distance and/or fuel data for business travel rather than just financial costs	At present, cost data is the source of most data provided for business travel which is converted to distance travelled using several assumptions. To improve on emissions calculation accuracy the following data should include: Mode of transport, distance travelled, travel provider, class travelled (flights/trains only).

Other Environmental Initiatives to be Considered

- Engage third parties and on-site tenants to explore further carbon management opportunities and improve benefits of carbon management measures across the airport site
- Investigate the reduction in operational carbon on local air quality
- Change airside vehicles to electric vehicles in order to optimise use of lower carbon fuels
- Incorporate green procurement policies in all aspects of airport purchasing policy
- Incentivise alternative/sustainable aviation fuel use by aircraft
- Water management and water treatment
- Resource efficiency for food waste and recycling services
- Site development considerations to reduce environmental impacts



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Appendix – Outside of Scope Emissions

As per UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting guidance, Outside of Scope factors should be used to account for the direct carbon dioxide (CO₂) impact of burning biomass and biofuels. The emissions are labelled 'outside of scope' because the Scope 1 impact of these fuels has been determined to be a net '0' (since the fuel source itself absorbs an equivalent amount of CO₂ during the growth phase as the amount of CO₂ released through combustion). As a result, full reporting of any fuel from a biogenic source should have the 'outside of scope' CO₂ value documented to ensure complete accounting for the emissions created.

2021 = **0 tCO₂e** (0% of total emissions)

The following sections provide a summary of the methodology adopted by Ricardo Energy & Environment to calculate the 2020 carbon footprint for HIAL Airports.

The standard approach to carbon footprinting is to use the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard developed by World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Resources Institute (WRI); this sets out a corporate accounting and reporting methodology for GHGs.

Scope 1 emissions are defined as direct GHG emissions arising from sources that are owned or controlled by the company. The emissions result from activities that the company can have direct influence on through its actions. Airports' emissions that are included are: natural gas use, company owned vehicles fuel use, fuel use for business travel, refrigerant gas use (from leaks during maintenance or malfunction), wood pallets and diesel use for fire training, propane combustion and kerosene combustion.

Scope 2 emissions are associated with the use of electricity imported from the grid or from a third-party supplier of energy in the form of heat or electricity. These indirect GHG emissions are due to upstream emissions from the production and delivery of fuel to power stations. Airports can influence the amount of electricity it uses; however, it has little control over the generation of the electricity and these emissions are therefore classed as Scope 2.

Scope 3 emissions are defined as those arising as an indirect consequence of the use of goods or services provided by the company. Airports do have some influence over Scope 3 emissions but the activities are not under its control. Sources included by Airports include aircraft (all aircraft movements up to a height of 1,000m above aerodrome level), employees commuting to the airport, passenger surface access to the airport, airside vehicle activities by third party operators, waste disposal (including production of the virgin materials), water (supply and treatment) and airport business travel.

Outside of Scope Emissions

As per UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting guidance, Outside of Scope factors have been used to account for the direct carbon dioxide (CO₂) impact of burning biomass and biofuels. The emissions are labelled 'outside of scope' because the Scope 1 impact of these fuels has been determined to be a net '0' (since the fuel source itself absorbs an equivalent amount of CO₂ during the growth phase as the amount of CO₂ released through combustion). As a result, full reporting of any fuel from a biogenic source have included the 'outside of scope' CO₂ value, documented to ensure complete accounting for the emissions created.

The uncertainties associated with carbon footprint calculations can be broadly categorised into scientific uncertainty and estimation uncertainty. Scientific uncertainty arises when the science of the actual emission and/or removal process is not completely understood. For example GWP values involve significant scientific uncertainty. Estimation uncertainty arises any time GHG emissions are quantified. Estimations have been made within this footprint where areas have uncertainty have arisen.

Business Travel

Accounts data was provided for business travel (Scope 1 & 3). Fuel volume information was provided for fuel used in some airport owned vehicles. Mileage claims for fuel used in personal vehicles on business travel were accounted for with HIAL's rate of 0.45p/mile. All other business travel data was provided in £ value and converted to distance travelled using the cost/km from Carbon Footprint and Project Register Tool (CFPRT) which can be found at <https://sustainablesotlandnetwork.org/resources/carbon-footprint-and-project-register-tool> . The CFPRT collates cost data for all forms of public transport across the UK, and is managed and updated by Sustainable Network Scotland and Resource Efficient Scotland.

Passenger Surface Access

Since no survey for passengers of Benbecula airport has been taken, emissions from passenger surface access have been estimated using a combination of assumptions. Geographical location and transport links were considered to generate assumptions on distance travelled and mode of transport. This was then scaled to the number of passengers at Benbecula Airport for the 2020/21 financial year.

Staff Commute

For staff commute, a 2021 survey completed by the airport. The response rates were 19%. This was used to scale the survey data to the total 36 FTE. The survey respondents provided information on their modes of transport, distance travelled to work and number of days worked per week. Public statutory holiday was taken into consideration in the calculations.

De-icer

We have calculated de-icer emissions using the emissions factors provided in the latest version of the ACERT tool from the Airport Carbon Accreditation scheme. Where diluted glycol was used (e.g. 50:50 glycol to water), the dilution rate has been taken into account in calculations.

Engine Tests

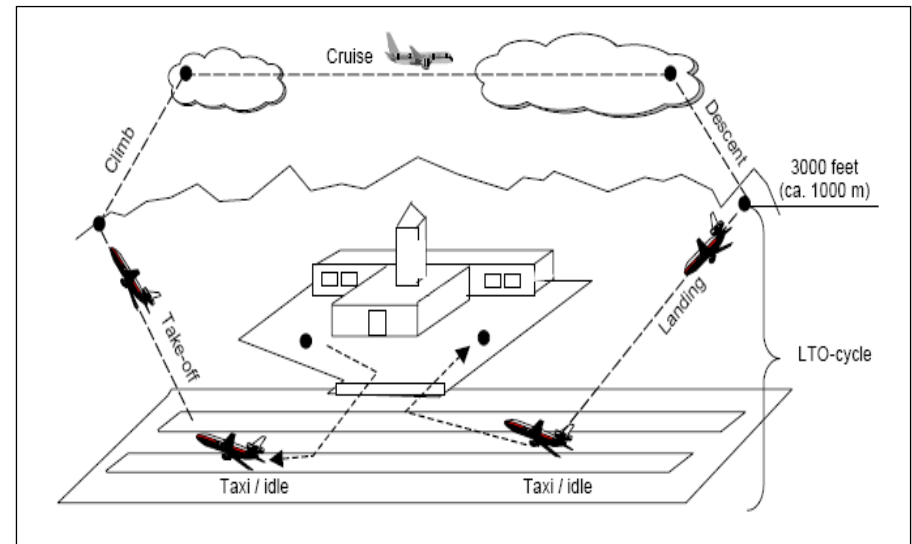
No engine testing currently takes place at Benbecula airport.

Aircraft Movements: Landing Take-off (LTO) cycle

Data provided by Benbecula airport included the following information for each aircraft movement in 2020: Carrier, Aircraft registration, aircraft IATA code, aircraft ICAO code, Arriving/departing, and date of movement.

This data is used to identify the number and type of engines that each aircraft has, and the fuel burn per second at each stage of the landing take-off cycle (shown right) can be referenced from the latest version of the [ICAO databank](#) for jet engines, and the [FOCA Aircraft Piston Engine database](#) for propeller aircraft.

Emissions are calculated from the fuel consumption per LTO, using the BEIS emissions factor for aviation turbine fuel.



Aircraft Movements: Climb, Cruise and Descent (CCD)

The ACA scheme outline three methodologies for the allocation of CCD emissions:

1. **Half way approach:** Where emissions from half of the distance of all flights going to/from the airports is allocated to the reporting airport.
2. **Departing only approach:** Emissions for the full flight distance for departing aircraft are allocated for the reporting airport.
3. **Fuel sales approach:** Emissions for all fuel sold at the airport is allocated to the reporting airport.

Of the three options above, it was decided to utilise the first approach as this is perceived to be the most neutral and comprehensive methodology.

Data provided by Benbecula airport included the following information for each aircraft movement in 2020: Carrier, Aircraft registration, aircraft IATA code, aircraft ICAO code, engine type, Arriving/departing, destination/origin airport, and date of movement.

Flight distance was calculated with the great circle equation, utilising the origin and destination airport latitude and longitude. This flight distance was uplifted by 5.5% to reflect the fact that aircraft do not fly in a perfect straight line from one airport to another. This figure has come from studies carried out by Ricardo Energy and Environment for the UK Department for Transport, and is an update to the commonly used figure of 9%.

Fuel kg/km in-flight for each aircraft type is calculated using data from the EMEP-EEA Fuel Database.

Emissions are calculated from the fuel consumption per flight, using the BEIS emissions factor for aviation turbine fuel.

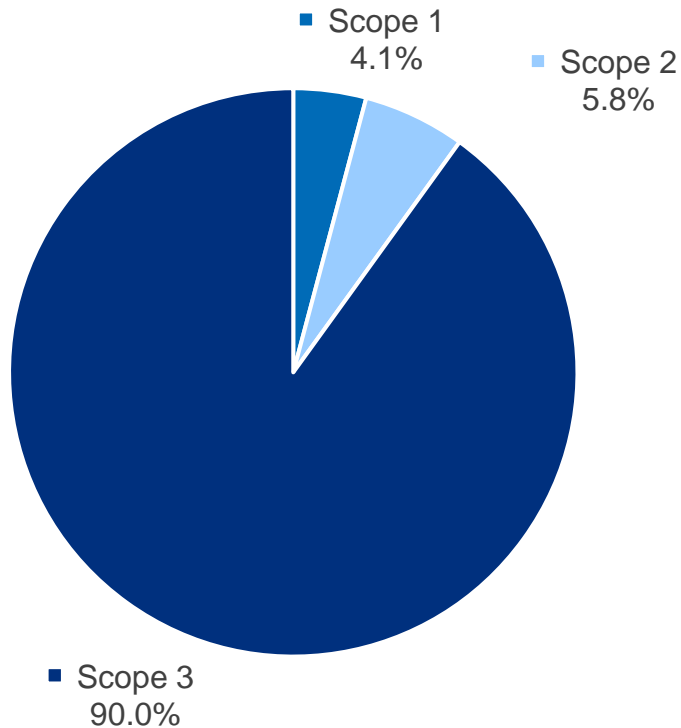
No non-carbon warming impacts have been taken into account as part of the CCD emissions.

Market-based method: As all of the 448,901.30 kWh of electricity consumption was supplied to Benbecula Airport by a single supplier. Benbecula Airport contacted the supplier and asked for the details of the fuel mix. The following breakdown was provided for the year-ending 31st March 2020 (Source of Electricity, Percentage):

- **Renewables - 100%**

The weighted emission factor was provided as 0 gCO₂/kWh (or 0 kgCO₂/kWh). Multiplying the electricity consumption of 448,901.30 kWh by the emission factor of 0 kgCO₂/kWh calculates the emissions as 0 tCO₂e.

Carbon Emissions by Scope (location based)



	Total 2021 emissions (tCO ₂ e)	% of total emissions
Scope 1	75	4.1%
Scope 2	105	5.8%
Scope 3	1,621	90.0%
Outside of Scopes	0	0%
Total	1,817	100%

Scope 1:

Emissions on-site, or an associated process, from the combustion of fossil fuels, e.g. natural gas, oil, LPG and company-owned vehicles.

Scope 2:

Emissions associated with the use of electricity imported from the grid or from a third party supplier of energy in the form of heat or electricity.

Scope 3:

Emissions arising as a direct consequence of the use of goods or services provided by the company. For Benbecula this would be the operation of the airport. Sources include aircraft movements, passenger and staff travel to the airport, airside activities, waste disposal, water and business travel.

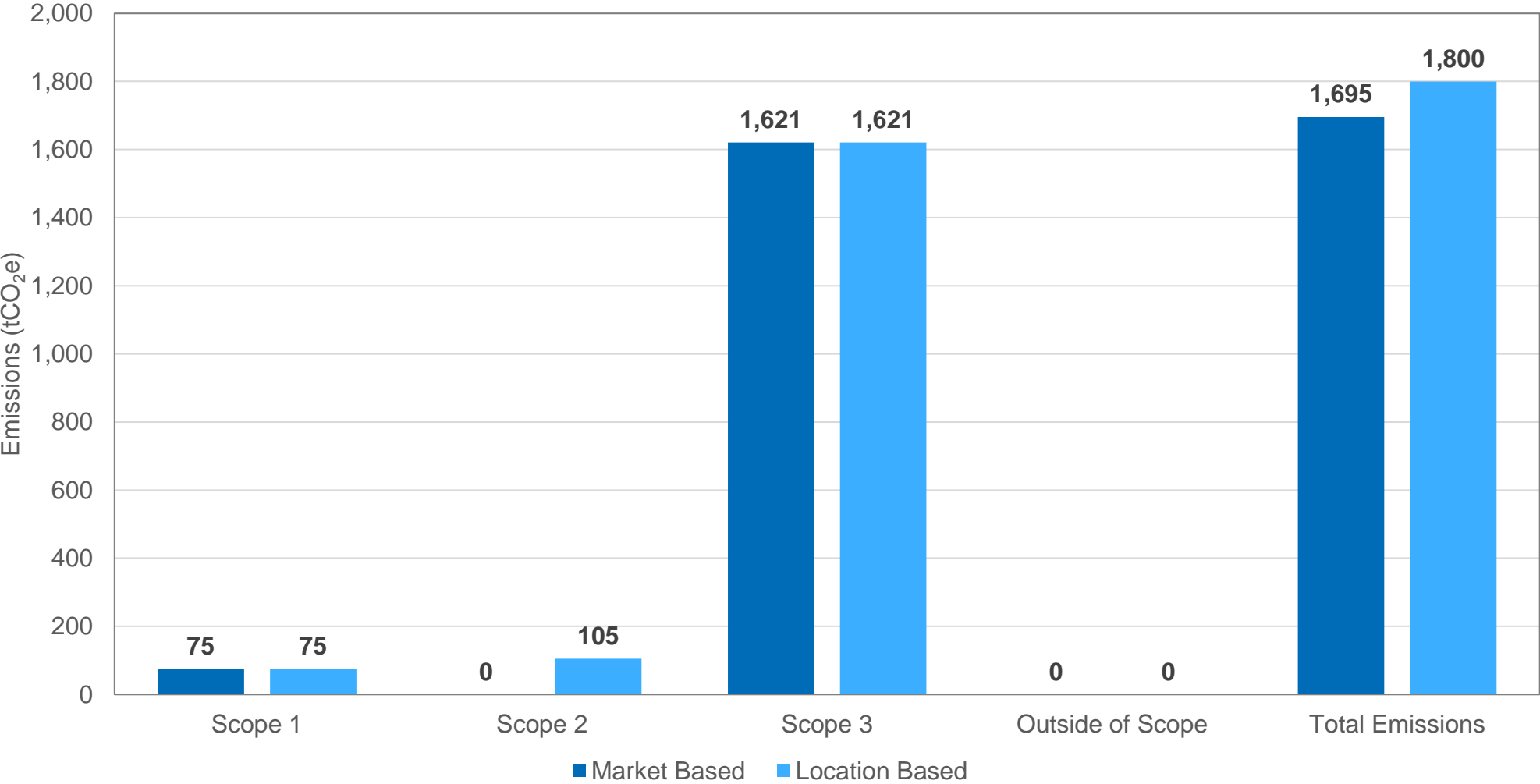
Outside of scope emissions:

Outside of scope emissions account for the direct carbon dioxide (CO₂) impact of burning biomass and biofuels. The emissions are labelled 'outside of scope' because the Scope 1 impact of these fuels has been determined to be a net '0'.

Location vs Market Based Emissions: All Scopes



Emissions totals by scope calculated using either the location or market based emissions factors.



Term	Definition
ATM	Air traffic movements – an aircraft take-off or landing at an airport. For airport traffic purposes one arrival and one departure is counted as two movements.
Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e)	The carbon dioxide equivalent (CO ₂ e) allows the different greenhouse gases to be compared on a like-for-like basis relative to one unit of CO ₂ . CO ₂ e is calculated by multiplying the emissions of each of the six greenhouse gases by its 100-year global warming potential (GWP).
Carbon footprint	A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a person, organisation, event or product. A carbon footprint is measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e).
Degree days	A unit used to determine the heating or cooling requirements of buildings, representing a fall or increase of one degree below a specified average outdoor temperature for one day.
Emission factor	An emissions factor is a representative value that attempts to relate the quantity of a pollutant released to the atmosphere with an activity associated with the release of that pollutant.
GHG	Greenhouse gas – a gas in an atmosphere that absorbs and emits radiation within the thermal infrared range. This process is the fundamental cause of the greenhouse effect. The primary greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere are water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.
Outside of Scope	<p>All fuels with biogenic content (e.g. 'Diesel and petrol (average biofuel blend)') should have the 'Outside of Scope' emissions reported to ensure a complete picture of an organisations' emissions are created.</p> <p>The emissions are labelled 'Outside of Scope' because the Scope 1 impact of these fuels has been determined to be a net '0' (since the fuel source itself absorbs an equivalent amount of CO₂ during the growth phase as the that CO₂ is released through combustion).</p>
PAX	Number of passengers.