

NET ZERO EMISSIONS STEERING GROUP

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

A Working Group was established by the Assembly Standing Committee as part of Assembly Resolution 32 (see Appendix 1) which was affirmed at the 16th Assembly in May 2022. The relevant paragraph is Part 7 of the Resolution, with the key tasks required being:

1. Gather data on commitments to greenhouse gas emission reduction made across the life of the church, and progress towards those commitments.
2. Share stories, expertise and learnings on effective strategies and resources to reduce emissions, prioritising the wisdom of First Peoples.
3. Consider how the whole of the church can move together to net zero emissions by 2040

During 2023, in view of the complexity of the task, the Assembly Standing Committee changed the title of the group to “Steering Group” and requested the Steering Group to “Further define the tasks required to undertake the project, and to empower the Steering Group to find and facilitate further volunteers as required in order to achieve the project goals.”

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE STEERING GROUP

In early 2023 Standing Committee appointed Lindsay Cullen, Catherine Pepper, Yuko Tonai-Moore, Jamie Thom and Richard Arnold. In August 2023 Richard was asked to become Convenor of the Steering Group. In October Raul Sugunanathan from the Assembly Resourcing Unit joined the group, in November Michael Mathias from Uniting NSW/ACT joined and in January 2024 Emily Murray from the Queensland Synod joined.

The Steering Group met online on five occasions during 2023 – 19 May, 23 June, 11 August, 6 October and the 8 December. The Steering Group also organised an Assembly Round Table which took place on 30 June 2023. The Steering Group has met twice in 2024 – 19 January, 20 February

3. KEY ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR:

3.1 Round Table

A Round Table of interested people from across the Assembly was held by Zoom on Friday 30 June. Twenty-two participants (22) from all over the country attended. All states were represented and all Synods except for the Northern Synod.

The Round Table was able to contribute some information about what commitments are being made to reduce emission (see Appendix 2). To date these include some general statements from Synods, some agencies and a small number of congregations. Further development of this list of commitments will be needed, especially considering that Synod resolutions rely on Presbyteries, agencies and congregations to implement actions.

Short stories of hope from the participants were also shared.

The Round Table also provided a list of contacts for follow-up and hopefully assistance to the Steering Group. It is probable that a further Round Table will be held in 2024. One interesting fact which emerged from discussion with Rev Dr Ji Zhang was that **agencies** possibly account for up to 80% of the emissions!



3.2 Survey

A survey was designed to discover more about what is happening across the Uniting Church in Australia including information about commitments, targets, reporting emissions, actions being taken and good news stories. The survey to the Act2 mailing list was distributed in late October 2023.

Key councils and agencies of the Uniting Church across the country were also followed up by telephone after the initial distribution. The latest count shows that 90 organisations have responded to the survey – 75 congregations and the remainder being Agencies or Synods (Administration)

Key findings from the survey are listed under section 4.4

4. KEY INFORMATION FOR THE ASSEMBLY

Most Synods are now in line with the Assembly recommendation of Net Zero Emissions by 2040 at the latest. Some parts of the church are seeking more rapid reductions in emissions.

The Steering Group considers that it is important to clarify what is meant by targets, particularly through the use of the term “net zero” and what is understood by “offsets”. As there are some emissions that are very difficult to eliminate, achieving a “zero emissions church” may in some circumstances require the purchase of offsets. Purchasing offsets should be used as a last resort where it is not possible to eliminate emissions, and there are issues with the quality of any offsets purchased. There may be a potential for an agency of the church to develop a high-quality carbon offset scheme in conjunction with First Nations communities.

In any discussion of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and moving towards net zero emissions it is also necessary to distinguish between Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions. In the context of the Uniting Church (see Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Consultation Paper March 2023):

- **Scope 1** emissions are the direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources owned or controlled by the reporting organisation (for example from direct burning of gas for heating or cooking).

- **Scope 2** refers to indirect emissions from using electricity, (including for) heating or cooling in the organisation.

- **Scope 3** emissions occur as a consequence of the organisation’s activities but are not directly controlled by the entity. These emissions arise in the organisation’s business transactions. For example, the emissions associated with the goods and services that the organisation buys. For the [Vic/Tas] Synod, it would also include the emissions of people travelling to our churches to attend services or other activities. Scope 3 emissions are the most difficult to track, but they often dwarf an organisation’s direct emissions.

There are 15 categories of activities that generate greenhouse gas emissions that are included in scope 3 emissions: 1. Purchased goods and services; 2. Capital goods; 3. Fuel- and energy-related activities; 4. Transportation and distribution (upstream); 5. Transportation and distribution (downstream); 6. Waste generated in operations; 7. Business travel; 8. Employee commuting; 9. Leased assets (upstream); 10. Leased assets (downstream); 11. Processing of sold products; 12. Use of sold products; 13. End-of-life treatment of sold products; 14. Franchises; and 15. Investments. Whilst most Synods are now in line with the Assembly recommendation of Net Zero Emissions by 2040 at the latest, the Scope types of emissions are not generally stated.

Two Synods (Queensland and NSW/ACT) report emissions under the Commonwealth NGER Act (see reference 1 below) because they exceed an emissions threshold. This requires the reporting of Scope 2 emissions from the purchase of electricity from the grid and Scope 1 emissions from the purchase of gas from the gas network (both are related to “what goes through the meter” and can be reported from gas and electricity bills). It should be noted that NGER does not consider offsets such as “GreenPower”.

It should be stressed that the main objective of targets should be to reduce emissions generated by fossil fuels. For this report the "Net Zero Emissions Steering Group" has focussed on how the church is reducing its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.

Schemes such as "GreenPower" are valuable in that they encourage the manufacture of new renewable energy and should be proactively encouraged.

Subject to time, resources and as opportunities arise, reducing Scope 3 emissions will also be addressed by the Steering Group. We regard this as a positive opportunity. Climate Active (see reference 2 below) also encourages this.

1. The **Commonwealth [National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007](https://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/NGER/Legislation/Measurement-Determination)** only "covers Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and energy production and consumption". (<https://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/NGER/Legislation/Measurement-Determination>).

2. **Climate Active** (an Australian Government program that supports national climate policy by driving voluntary climate action), in its recommendation [Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations](#) (pages 14-15) states that "All emissions identified as occurring as a consequence of an organisation's business activities must be considered for relevance ... This includes emissions which the entity has direct control over as well as emissions that are not under the entity's direct control."

For the purpose of clarifying future actions related to the Resolution from 16th Assembly (May 2022), and to align with the intent of the Resolution, a number of Recommendations have been prepared and are listed at the end of this report.

4.2 A snapshot of Emissions (see Appendix 3)

Although only a few parts of the church measure and record emissions (mainly larger Agencies), it is possible to estimate Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions based on typical congregations.

Several larger Agencies have detailed Scope 1 and Scope 2 emission measurements because of their NGER reporting requirements.

From a recent study at Brunswick Uniting Church, considered to be a medium-sized, active congregation with a regular worshipping congregation of around 100 people, the annual emissions were calculated to be around 25 (tonnes CO₂ equivalent) per annum. A conservative estimate for the 490 smaller VicTas congregations could therefore be around 10 (tonnes CO₂ equivalent) per annum per congregation.

From data collected so far, an estimate of the total Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions across the whole UCA in Australia is approximately 150,000 Tonnes equivalent CO₂ per annum. This could increase a little as further data is collected. To put this amount into context, this would be equivalent to a township of around 10,000 homes (based on government reports that a typical home emits around 15 tonnes equivalent CO₂ per annum).

Whilst Agencies contribute by far the most emissions, they often have dedicated staff who are responsible for oversight of emission reduction targets. This is not the case with most congregations – they rely on having local expertise and enthusiasm to develop and implement emission reductions. It will be important to encourage and assist congregations in their efforts to reduce emissions.

A key task will be to encourage all parts of the Uniting Church to measure and report emissions. This will establish baseline emissions and then indicate how effective the various parts are progressing toward their commitments.

Rev Dr Ji Zhang developed some Measurement Tools during his time with the Assembly. These are tailored to be used by congregations, agencies, and households. They calculate the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted each year and use available data such as electricity bills, gas bills, water bills and kilometres travelled. The Measurement Tools need updating, and this needs some understanding of the mathematics behind the tools including carbon emission conversion factors.

Hence some technical support may be needed to update them and train people in their use.

An additional observation regarding emissions; given that there are an estimated 200,000 “active” members of the UCA in Australia, encouraging individual members to act on reducing emissions in their own households could also be a very worthwhile strategy!

4.3 Sharing Good News Stories

From the Survey, several congregations and Agencies, representing each of the Synods, have been identified and approached to share their stories. The Steering group will work with these organisations and the Assembly Communications team to publish several good news stories during 2024. This will also include an interview with a Congress theologian to gain an Indigenous perspective on climate adaption.

Many parts of our Church are doing great work. For example:

In 2021-22, UnitingCare Qld has saw a reduction of 9.2% emissions compared to its 2018-19 baseline, continuing a year-on-year downwards trend since 2016-17 (Environmental Sustainability Report).

Uniting NSW.ACT reduced its emissions by 25.1% between 2010 and 2023 (Sustainability in action webpage).

UnitingCommunities was the first South Australian organisation and the first registered charity in Australia to receive certification under the Federal Government’s Carbon Neutral Program and continues to be a pioneer in this space (Net Zero 2035 webpage).

Over 30 UCA congregations have won a 5 Leaf Eco Award which is a great initiative for the grassroots of the Church (AWARD WINNING GREEN CHURCHES webpage). The Steering Group believes that the “Five leaf Eco Awards” program should be further encouraged right across the Uniting Church in Australia.

4.4 Key findings from the Survey

73% of responders were aware of the 16th Assembly resolution on climate action.

66.3% of respondents are acting to reduce their emissions.

Only a small number of responders (20.7%) measure their emissions and report on progress

60% of responders felt that more information on solutions would be valuable

57% of responders felt that more knowledge on how to calculate emissions would be valuable.

50% of responders felt that access to funds would help encourage them to take climate action.

4.5 Key Documents from around the Country

It should be noted that some valuable work has been happening across the country

In 2020 **the Assembly** published Tracking our Carbon Footprint¹. The Assembly also has resources on its website under the title of “Toward Zero”.

The **NSW/ACT Synod** - Synod Climate Action Strategy. Uniting NSW/ACT, working with the NSW Sustainability Advantage Program, has developed a Carbon Neutrality Road Map. Uniting NSW/ACT has reduced its carbon emissions from 2010 to 2023 by 25%. It also produces a biannual United Nations Sustainable Development Goals report which presents its carbon reduction activities and climate change advocacy.

In March 2023 the **VIC/TAS Synod** published a 35-page discussion paper “How can the Synod reach Net Zero Emissions by 2040?” which has informed some of our thought as a Steering Group. A more recent resolution at Synod meeting including zero emissions by 2040.



The **QLD Synod** Climate action plan for 2030 - "A Flourishing Creation", commits their Synod to reaching a target of 70% greenhouse emissions reduction by 2030, and net zero by 2040.

UnitingCare Queensland has an Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021 – 2025 and have reported annually on this via their Environmental Sustainability Scorecard Report (2021 and 2022 Reports available).

The **SA Synod** Climate Action Plan for 2022-2030 included the integration of a climate working group drawing on boards, agencies.

Western Australia SSC – Net Zero Working Group – Final Report, the synod is committed to reducing its emissions to net-zero by 2030 and is encouraging and resourcing its presbyteries, congregations and schools and agencies to reach net zero by 2040, preferably by 2030.

4.6 Purchase of Renewable Energy and/or Green Power

It was interesting to learn from the Round Table that in both NSW/ACT and VicTas Synods, efforts are being made to provide all parts of the church with Renewable and/or Green Power. The efforts aim to source electricity from renewable sources or to source electricity which has been certified "Green" (where money is invested to further the production of renewable electricity).

In Victoria, the Synod now has a Board member on **CoPower** and is promoting CoPower as its recommended supplier of electricity. CoPower rates in the top 5 electricity distributors in the Greenpeace Green Electricity Guide.

In NSW/ACT a group of Uniting Church members (more specifically Sydney & Central Coast Presbytery) has established "**Uniting Energy**" (see Uniting Insights Magazine for 19 May 2022). At the recent Round Table, it was reported that in its pilot scheme, Uniting Energy had supplied 9 NSW churches with Green Power for the past year, greatly reducing their carbon footprint. These approaches to reducing emissions should be encouraged.

Uniting NSW.ACT has a Power Purchase Agreement with Iberdrola to provide 30% 2024, 40% 2025 and 50% 2026 electricity from renewable sources. Uniting NSW.ACT is also exploring purchasing a solar farm to meet approximately 50% renewable energy needs from 2027.

In Queensland, UnitingCare Queensland are currently leading a Synod-wide energy procurement process and are pursuing renewable electricity purchase options as part of this. The Synod Office site (including Raymont College) and Alex Park Conference Centre have committed to purchasing 30% renewables 2025, 40% renewables 2026 and 50% renewables 2027. UnitingCare Queensland and Wesley Mission Queensland have not finalised their purchase option at the time of writing.

4.7 Listening to First Peoples Wisdom and Knowledge

The Steering Group has begun the task of listening to First Peoples wisdom and knowledge and has been encouraged by a conversation with Rev Tim Matton-Johnson, a descendant of the Panninher People.

You can view the full interview, as well as the rest of the 'Towards Net Zero: Good News Stories', on the Assembly website (<https://uniting.church/towards-net-zero-good-news-stories-week-1/>). A written transcript is also available. The Steering Group strongly encourages all members of Assembly make time to listen to or read the conversation.

In the discussion, Tim makes the point that the cultural drivers in mainstream society are more important to deal with than the technical problems of getting to net zero, because they continue to drive growth in a finite world. Thus, the ecological crisis will continue to deepen. Tim makes the point that surviving the crisis will require changing the way we do civilization, and that indigenous wisdom has three key offerings.

The first one is to understand Country as your first teacher - Country can be understood as the environment in which you live. In other words, work out how everything else manages to live around you and let that teach you how you should live in that context. It will be important to consider the



whole ecological system of planet Earth as Country, if we are to learn to live sustainably.

The second point that emerges out of learning from Country is that you find that everything is connected. So, what you're looking at is a holistic picture of what's going on in Country, and that one thing will affect the life of another thing, and so forth. There is a complex web of interaction and connectedness.

Out of this understanding comes the third point - consider the welfare of the whole community first and not your individual aspirations. The whole community makes the ecosystem in which people and other beings live, and this is quite the opposite to the way most of us actually live in our present society.

Tim also reminds us that in Romans 8, Paul includes the whole of creation as also thirsting for salvation. This holistic vision understands that the whole creation, the whole universe, is God's project. It's not actually our project and so to be faithful to this God, we should want to get on board with God's project. There is a need to have theologies that think in this way rather than in just a narrow personal salvation way. The scriptures also remind us to love God and love neighbour – with a First Peoples wisdom the trees, plants, animals, grubs, and worms, are all neighbours, because they are each trying to live on the same block of ground as we humans.

Tim encourages us to also think about Country as “the places where you actually live and work and learn to love Country there and get to know it”. Get to know its ancient and modern history, geology, geography, where water flows through it, where are there inter-relationships. Learn to love Country by taking time to notice the trees, the animals, the plants, and so forth. Then gradually your emotional and intellectual awareness will be reshaped.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That the Net Zero Emissions Steering Group be asked to continue its work for the next triennium and bring a further report and next steps to the 18th Assembly.

The Steering Group has only just commenced its work (in May 2023) and there is much more work to be done.

5.2 That Standing Committee be asked to appoint additional members to the Steering Group to include a representative from the South Australian Synod, and a representative with a First People's wisdom perspective.

5.3 That Assembly continue to resource the Steering Group.

Most of the members of the Steering Group are volunteers. Administration support has been facilitated by Lindsay Cullen and Anna Catliffe. Continued Administration support will be needed.

We are pleased to have Raul Sugunanathan, who has recently been appointed the Assembly Policy and Advocacy Officer, join the Steering Group. Raul has indicated that he is able to offer the Steering Group some of his time and this will need to continue.

On-going support will also be needed from the Assembly's media team to mobilise the whole church toward the goal of zero emissions. Key areas where this support will be needed included:

- a) “Sharing Good News Stories” - regular opportunities to do this will be required as the Steering Group begins to gather these stories.*
- b) Promoting already existing resources from particular Synods to a wider catchment across the whole country.*
- c) Promoting engagement with the “Five-Leaf Eco Awards” program and encouraging the purchase of GreenPower.*



In addition to the support listed above, it may be necessary to purchase some external technical support from time to time.

5.4 That the Steering Group develop suitable guidelines for all Councils of the church, agencies, and schools in relation to calculating and reporting emissions.

The focus for the next triennium should be the reporting of Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. Scope 3 emissions will be investigated subject to time and resources. These guidelines would include reporting as per NGER reporting requirements of actual Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, separate reporting of offsets, as well as consideration of relevant Scope 3 emissions.

5.5 That the Steering Group facilitates networking and a sharing/promoting of resources across the whole Assembly and continues to hold online “Roundtable meetings” of interested people from the church around Australia on an annual basis.

As a “communications hub”, the Steering Group can increase the sharing of ideas and solutions, noting that several Synods already have dedicated staff and significant resources relating to climate action. The Roundtable meetings can facilitate further networking and a sharing/promoting of resources across the whole Assembly.

5.6 That the Steering Group investigate whether it is feasible for the Uniting Church to become a provider of carbon offsets, including through working with First Nations communities.

An agency of the Uniting Church (for example Uniting NSW/ACT) may take on the provision of ethical sourced carbon offsets for purchase by the councils of the church, agencies and schools and individual members of the church.

Richard Arnold on behalf of the Steering Group: Lindsay Cullen, Catherine Pepper, Yuko Tonai-Moore, Jamie Thom, Raul Sugunanathan, Michael Mathias and Emily Murray





Appendix 1

Net Zero Emissions Working Group TERMS OF REFERENCE

[approved by the ASC at its November 2022 meeting]

Purpose:	To undertake work to address the Assembly resolution <i>A call to action for climate justice: listening to First Peoples wisdom</i> , bringing a report on findings, activities and next steps to the 17 th Assembly.
Reporting Arrangements:	Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) and 17 th Assembly
Period:	This Terms of Reference is from November 2022 until July 2024 (the convening of the 17 th Assembly)
Membership:	As determined by the ASC on the recommendation of a group consisting of the Associate General Secretary and interested ASC members

Background:

The 16th Assembly Reconvened resolved:

A call to action for climate justice: listening to First Peoples wisdom

1. To acknowledge that since time immemorial the Creator gifted First Peoples to be the timeless caretakers of country and the natural environment.
2. To confess that as Second Peoples we have heard the wisdom of First Peoples, the call of our Partner Churches, and stories of communities already affected by climate change, but we have not listened. We have failed to act as a whole Church with the level of urgency needed, and have not made the fundamental behavioural changes needed to care for creation. We confess that while effort has been made to change from ways that destroy the Creator's good creation, carbon pollution continues as a direct result of our activities individually and as a Church, and global carbon pollution is now causing irreversible harm.
3. To commit anew to listen to First Peoples wisdom and knowledge, and to take practical climate action including changing our own behaviour.
4. To call on all Councils of the church, agencies and schools who have not already done so to join with the Assembly in committing to net zero emissions by 2040 at the latest, so that together we can become a zero emissions Church. We further urge all Councils to make use of the resources, stories and carbon accounting tools made available online.
5. To request the Standards for Ministry Committee to identify the most appropriate way to embed learning from the wisdom of First Peoples, care of creation, climate justice and the spiritual and theological basis for a zero emissions church into formation, education and training for the specified ministries of the Uniting Church and report back to the November 2022 meeting of the Assembly Standing Committee.
6. To request the Assembly Circles, Advocates and Panels to include learning from the wisdom of First Peoples, care of creation, climate justice and the spiritual and theological basis for a zero emissions church into their work for the remainder of this triennium.
7. To request the Assembly Standing Committee to:
 - a. establish a national zero emissions church working group to:
 - gather data on commitments to greenhouse gas emission reduction made across the life of the church, and progress towards those commitments



- share stories, expertise and learnings on effective strategies and resources to reduce emissions, prioritising the wisdom of First Peoples
 - consider how the whole of the church can move together to net zero emissions by 2040; and:
- b. to bring a report on findings and recommended next steps to the 17th Assembly.

Task Required:

- Gather data on commitments to greenhouse gas emission reduction made across the life of the church, and progress towards those commitments
- Share stories, expertise and learnings on effective strategies and resources to reduce emissions, prioritising the wisdom of First Peoples
- Consider how the whole of the church can move together to net zero emissions by 2040

Expected Outcomes:

Through communication by the GS to all Synods, the Assembly will call on all Councils of the church, agencies and schools who have not already done so to join with the Assembly in committing to net zero emissions by 2040 at the latest, so that together we can become a zero emissions Church. The call will further urge all Councils to make use of the resources, stories and carbon accounting tools made available online.

The Task Group will:

1. Follow up this call, gathering data on commitments and progress towards these commitments.
2. Seek out stories, expertise and learnings on effective strategies and resources to reduce emissions, prioritising the wisdom of First Peoples and work with Assembly communication to disseminate this material widely.
3. Based on the data gathered, develop concrete next steps for how the whole of the church can move together to net zero emissions by 2040

At the conclusion of its work the Task Group will present a Report to the 17th Assembly via the Assembly Standing Committee outlining activities undertaken, the findings and proposed next steps.

How the task group will work:

1. Be grounded in the gospel and build upon the tradition of the Uniting Church in Australia.
2. Live out our covenant as First and Second Peoples.
3. Live out our commitment to being a multicultural church, oriented towards justice.
4. Embody an inclusive church where those of differing ability, age, race, sexual orientation and gender identity are welcomed.
5. Ensure that the activities of the Task Group are consistent with the Basis of Union of the UCA, the Constitution and Regulations, and align with the current strategic priorities of the Assembly.
6. Consider how the work of the Task Group relates to other councils, agencies and groups within the UCA, and work collaboratively wherever possible.
7. Consider how the work of the Task Group relates to other bodies ecumenically and with other civil society organisation and work collaboratively wherever possible.
8. Where appropriate, conduct its work on the basis of rigorous, contemporary research and analysis

Membership:

The Convenor will be appointed by the ASC guided by input from a group consisting of the Associate General Secretary and interested ASC members.

The appropriate number of members and the composition of the membership of the Task Group will be determined by the Assembly Standing Committee guided by input from the same group.

Casual vacancies will be filled as required by the Assembly General Secretary and communicated to ASC.

The selection process will consider the skills and expertise required to undertake the work of the Task Group.



The Task Group will be dismissed at the conclusion of the work it has been given. In the event that the period given to a Task Group has elapsed and the work of the group is not yet completed the Assembly General Secretary may choose to:

1. Extend the period of the Task Group and communicate this to ASC
2. Dismiss the Task Group and request that ASC appoint a new Task Group.





Appendix 2

The Uniting Church in Australia – a snapshot of Targets of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This table is a list of targets that the Steering Group is currently aware of. There are possibly other organisations within the Uniting Church which have also set their own targets which are all tighter than the Assembly's proposed 2040 target.

Assembly

Zero emissions by no later than 2040

Synod NSW/ACT

40% by 2028, 70% by 2032 and 100% by 2038

Synod Vic/Tas

Net zero emissions by 2040

Uniting AgeWell (Victoria/Tasmania)

20% reduction by 2026

SA Synod

Reduction of 50% by 2030 and net zero by 2040

Uniting Communities South Australia

Net zero by 2035

Qld Synod

70 per cent greenhouse emissions reduction by 2030, with a further aim of net zero by 2040, in line with targets set by the National Assembly

UnitingCare Queensland

70% reduction in carbon footprint by 2025

100% electricity from renewable sources by 2025

Note: UCQ's 70% reduction in carbon footprint (Scope 1 & Scope 2) is dependent on achieving 100% renewable electricity, primarily through its energy purchasing. However, UCQ is set to reduce and delay its renewable energy target due to financial headwinds. Their decarbonisation approach is also pivoting to focus more on behind-the-meter renewables and energy efficiency upgrades, rather than purchased (offsite) renewable energy supply.

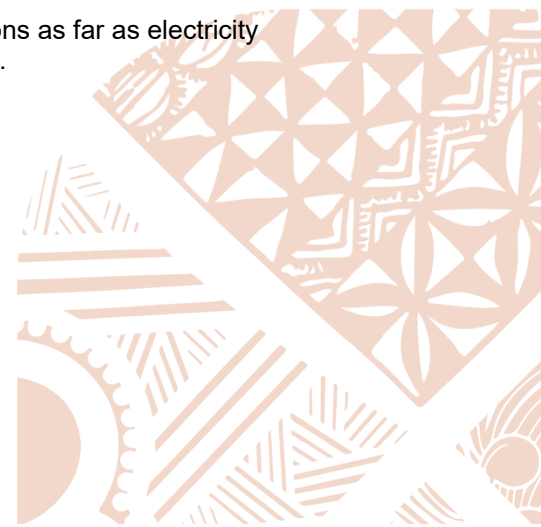
WA Synod

Net zero by 2030

Additional Comments

Some congregations have reached zero emissions as far as electricity consumption (Scope 2 emissions) through the generation of their own power using solar collectors.

Some congregations are stating that they have reached the zero emissions as far as electricity consumption (Scope 2 emissions) through the purchase of Green Power.





Appendix 3

The Uniting Church in Australia – a snapshot of Emissions for Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This list includes all the emissions figures of Uniting Church entities collected by the Towards Net Zero Emissions Steering Group for the 2022-23 Financial Year (unless otherwise stated). Different entities use different methods to measure their emissions. For example, most parts of the Assembly have self-reported their emissions and include not only scope 1 and 2 emissions, but also some scope 3 emissions. For another example, two Synods (Qld and NSW/ACT) report under the federal NGER Act which only includes scope 1 and 2 emissions and covers all entities under the respective Property Trusts.

Where there is no available data for congregations, an estimate of 10 Tonnes of CO2 equiv. per annum is used (see discussion in 4.2 in main report). Emissions are reported as “tonnes of CO2 equivalent” per annum.

Assembly

Measures scope 1, 2, and some 3 emissions

Entity	Emissions
Assembly Secretariat.	118 t
Frontier Services	74 t
Uniting World	101 t
UnitingCare	53 t
UAICC, Safe Church, Redress	n/a
Reported total	256t

Qld Synod

Synod total (NGER) of 74,931 t. Measures scope 1 and 2 emissions. Although this NGER figure includes all agencies in the Synod, UnitingCare Queensland estimates its own emissions to be 85,000 t (2021-2022 sustainability report, when some scope 3 emissions are included).

NSW/ACT Synod

Synod total (NGER) of 46,247t including Uniting NSW/ACT 28,071 t. Measures scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Vic/Tas Synod

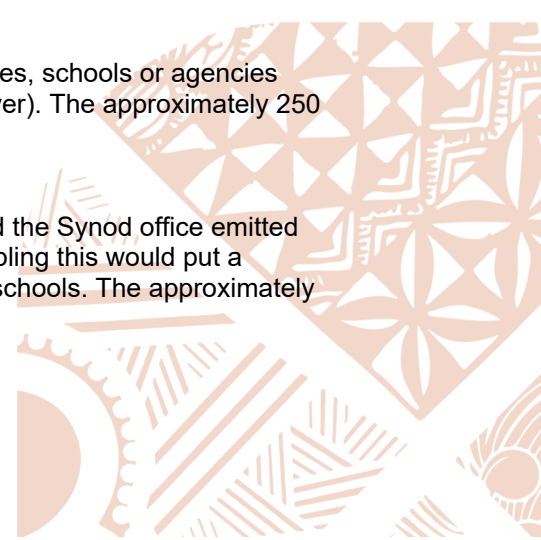
Does not report under NGER as found to be under the threshold. Uniting Age Well emitted 10,205 t and Uniting VicTas is approximately 6000 t. The approximately 550 congregations would produce an estimated 5500t. No data for Synod offices, presbytery offices or schools.

SA Synod

Does not report under NGER. No data for Synod offices, presbytery offices, schools or agencies except for Uniting Communities 2,500 t (2021-22 NET ZERO pathway flyer). The approximately 250 congregations would produce an estimated 2500t

WA Synod

Does not report under NGER. The Synod Net Zero Working Group found the Synod office emitted 140.1t on fuel, electricity and air travel in the last 6 months of 2023. Doubling this would put a yearlong estimate at 280.2t. No data for agencies, presbytery offices or schools. The approximately





100 congregations would produce an estimated 1000t.

Northern Synod

Does not report under NGER. No data for Synod offices, agencies, presbytery offices or schools. The approximately 15 congregations would produce an estimated 150t

Total

The total emissions from the data we have collated gives us a rough estimate of **150,000** tonnes of CO2 equivalent per annum. This does not include the entities we do not have data for as mentioned above.

