

Addressing the CEB's own environmental footprint

With a large portion of the CEB staff working from home during 2020, the Bank's environmental footprint from its own operations saw a significant decrease. Going forward, a key question will be how to safeguard, at least in part, this 'greener way of working'.

GRI 103-2

■ Foundations for internal action

The CEB's approach for addressing its own environmental impact, and for setting priority areas for further improvement, is laid out in the [Environmental Statement](#). At the Bank, the main focus is on responsibly handling business travel, waste management, office heating and cooling, materials consumption such as water, plastic and paper. The tools with which to achieve additional progress on these matters are sustainable procurement, staff awareness and support, and emissions compensation where no other solution is readily available.

At end 2020, the CEB's teams for facility management, procurement and corporate responsibility started a project with *GreenFlex*, the sustainability consultancy firm also assisting the Bank with annually evaluating its operational carbon emissions, in order to support the CEB with:

- Drafting a sustainable procurement policy and procedure and phasing in of sustainable selection criteria where appropriate
- Switching to renewable electricity for the Paris office
- Identifying a suitable carbon offsetting mechanism.

It is a long-established practice at the Bank, when selecting suppliers and supplies, to consider ecological labels or the use of environmentally friendly products (e.g. in cleaning services, FSC paper products).

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■ Operational footprint in 2020

Not only for the CEB's core lending business was 2020 an exceptional year; the environmental footprint of the Bank's operations was strongly influenced by the pandemic and the lockdowns. To adapt calculation of the footprint to most of the staff working from home, the electricity consumption of computers at home and the new IT equipment distributed to staff⁷ were included in this year's assessment (see Table 5):

- A 87% decrease in emissions from business travel
- A 64% decrease in emissions from commuting
- A 18% decrease in emissions from heating and cooling
- A 4% increase in emissions from electricity consumption
- A 61% increase in emissions from the purchase of IT equipment.

The figures presented above show that the emission data is heavily skewed to the downside and some rebound to the usual more gradual downward sloping trend should be expected for 2021.

Key actions taken

During the year 2020, the Bank advanced its internal corporate practices. Aiming to limit the overall greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts and improve its environmental performance, the CEB:

- Connected its new IT technical room to the Paris refrigeration network instead of using air conditioners,
- Reduced the size of its hot water tanks by 15%,
- Cleaned all radiators to increase their performance,
- Continued the phased switch to double-glazed windows (24% of the windows have already been replaced) and LED lighting,
- Doubled the size of the bicycle parking area.

⁷ Note that, since the 2019 GHG assessment, IT equipment has been part of the calculation, and has also been retroactively added for 2018.



Karine Der-Ohanessian,
Maître d'hôtel at the CEB

“We tested several potential suppliers offering a high quality diet and fresh snacks. Le Bon Bocal stood out with their philosophy around re-use, recycling and zero food waste. It aligns well with the CEB’s ambition to continuously improve the impact of our internal operations.”

■ Supporting local start ups and innovative social enterprises

In addition to the action outlined above, the Bank decided to replace the conventional vending machines for soft drinks and snacks with a more sustainable offering that contributes to well-being at the CEB, thus reducing our carbon footprint and waste and offering a range of good quality food at reasonable prices.



The new supplier is an environmentally responsible start up called Le Bon Bocal that offers their snack and lunch options in re-usable, 100% recyclable glass jars. The food options are fresh, seasonal and locally sourced.

Meals that are not sold are collected and resold using, for instance, a smartphone app, or are donated to charities.



The CEB also hired recycling experts from Le Petit Plus, a social enterprise, in order to properly capture additional waste streams, e.g. plastic, glass, batteries and light bulbs. More than half of the staff employed by Le Petit Plus, located in the greater Paris area,

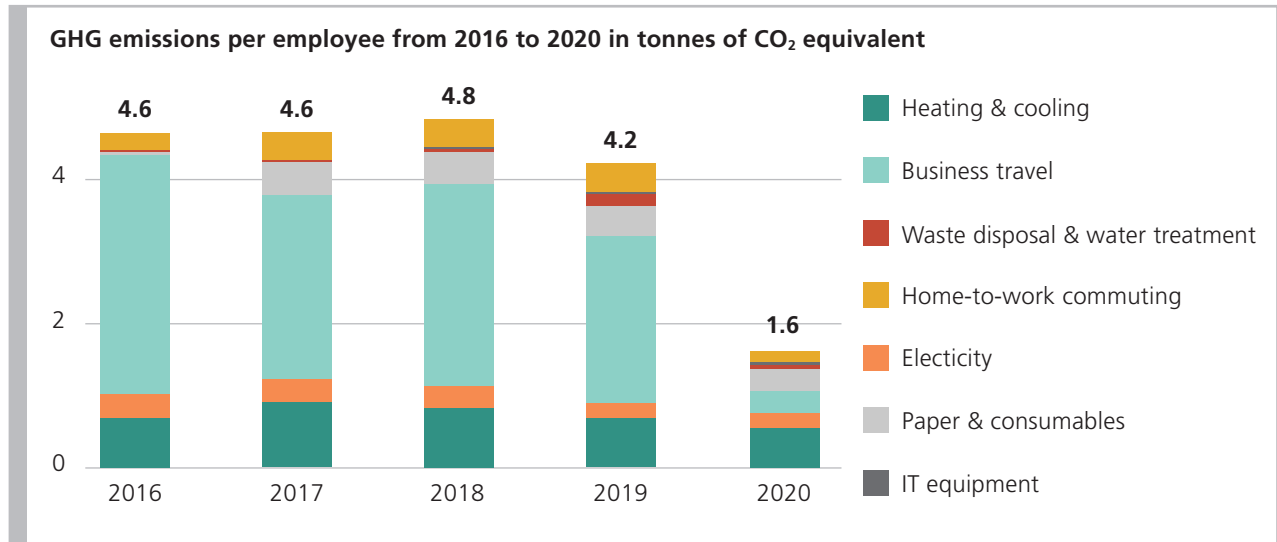
are people with disabilities.

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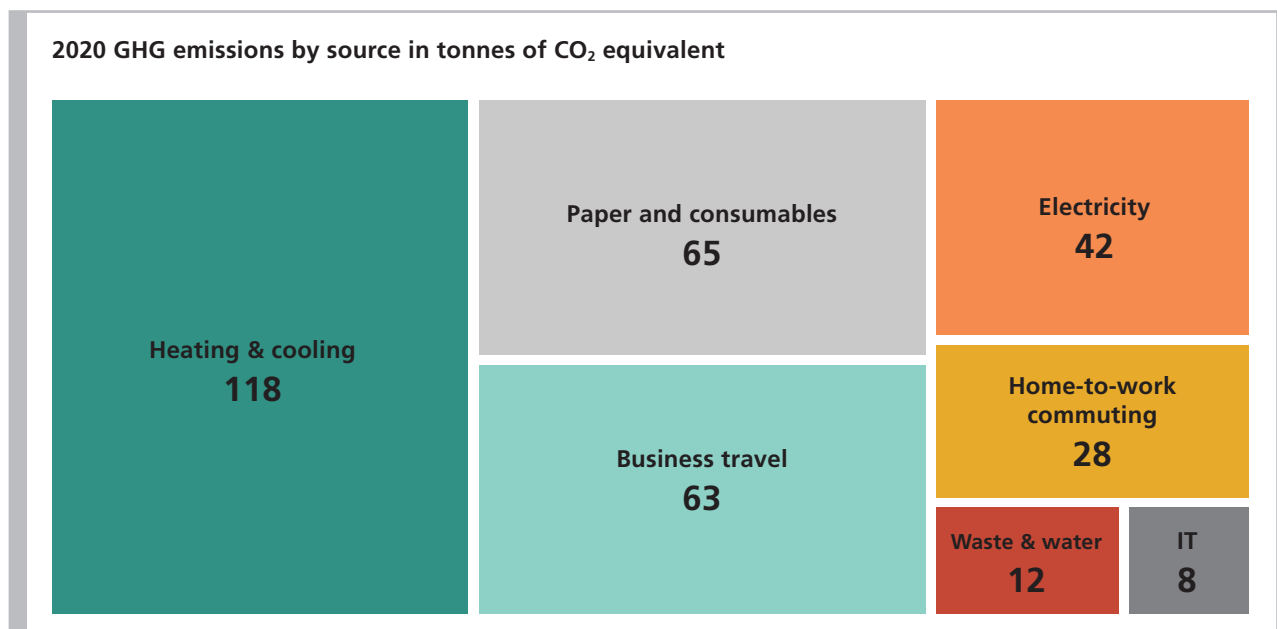
■ Sources and trends in GHG emissions

In total, the Bank’s greenhouse gas emissions for 2020 stand at 336 tonnes of CO₂, representing 1.6 tCO₂e/ employee, down from 865 tonnes of CO₂, or 4.2 tCO₂e/ employee for the previous year, according to the *Bilan*

Carbone methodology.⁸ It is important to note that 2020 was an atypical year and it is unlikely that this drastic reduction in emissions can be reproduced next year.



Note that, in 2017, there was a major overhaul of the carbon footprint methodology, detailed in the 2017 [CSR Report](#). For more on the CEB’s absolute emissions over time, see the GRI Index, GRI 305-5.



For a deeper dive into the Bank’s GHG emissions from own operations and their trend over the past five years, see the overview below (Table 5).

⁸ For some general background on the *Bilan Carbone* methodology, see the GRI Index, Emissions – GRI 305.

Table 5: The CEB's detailed GHG emissions by source in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent

DASHBOARD	Difference 2020 / 2016		2020		2019		2016	
	Total variation	Variation per employee	Total 2020	Per employee 2020	Total 2019	Per employee 2019	Total 2016	Per employee 2016
Surface - m ²	+1%	-5%	7 675.0	36.7	7 600	36.9	7 600.0	38.6
CEB personnel - FTE	+6%	0%	209.0	1.0	206.0	1.0	197.0	1.0
Overall emissions	-63%	-65%	336.2	1.6	865.2	4.2	908.0	4.6
Buildings - Heating & cooling	-15%	-20%	118.4	0.6	145.2	0.7	139.3	0.7
Vapour network emission	-15%	-20%	118.1	0.6	144.9	0.7	139.3	0.7
Cooling use emissions	-	-	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	Not available	Not available
Buildings - Electricity	-33%	-37%	41.8	0.2	40.3	0.2	62.6	0.3
Electricity emissions	-33%	-37%	41.8	0.2	40.3	0.2	62.6	0.3
Travelling - Commuting	-36%	-40%	28.4	0.1	79.9	0.4	44.3	0.2
Emissions linked to commuting by car	-37%	-40%	25.4	0.1	71.5	0.3	40.3	0.2
Emissions linked to commuting by moto	-	-	1.4	0.0	4.1	0.0	Not available	Not available
Emissions linked to commuting by public transport	-62%	-64%	1.5	0.0	4.3	0.0	4.0	0.0
Travelling - Business travelling	-90%	-91%	62.9	0.3	474.3	2.3	648.6	3.3
Emissions linked to travelling by plane	-90%	-91%	59.9	0.3	462.7	2.2	607.0	3.1
Emissions linked to travelling by train	-69%	-71%	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.6	0.0
Emissions linked to travelling by car and taxi	-93%	-94%	2.8	0.0	10.8	0.1	41.4	0.2
Paper & consumables	-	-	65.2	0.3	88.1	0.4	9.2	0.0
Emissions linked to water bottles	-	-	-	-	1.4	0.0	Not available	Not available
Emissions linked to consumables	-	-	14.1	0.1	32.4	0.2	Not available	Not available
Emissions linked to post services	-	-	9.6	0.0	10.3	0.1	Not available	Not available
Emissions linked to magazines and newspapers	-	-	37.1	0.2	33.5	0.2	Not available	Not available
Emissions linked to printing brochures	-	-	1.6	0.0	5.3	0.0	Not available	Not available
Emissions linked to printing paper	-70%	-72%	2.8	0.0	5.2	0.0	9.2	0.0
Waste disposal and wastewater	-	-	11.9	0.1	32.7	0.2	4.0	0.0
Emissions linked to wastewater	-	-	0.7	0.0	0.6	0.0	Not available	Not available
Emissions linked to garbage	+181%	+165%	11.2	0.1	32.1	0.2	4.0	0.0
IT equipment	-	-	7.8	0.0	4.8	0.0	-	-
Emissions linked to printers	-	-	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.0	Not available	Not available
Emissions linked to computers	-	-	2.3	0.0	2.0	0.0	Not available	Not available
Emissions linked to large screens	-	-	4.9	0.0	2.2	0.0	Not available	Not available

Note that, for the baseline year 2016, when the previous methodology for tracking GHG was still being used, some data was not available or has not been assessed and is therefore marked as "Not available".

Also note that, for 2020, the calculations were done under the assumption that, on a regular day, 30% of staff were at the office. This is a rather conservative estimate and the real staff presence was much lower.