

# Reducing your emissions: GreenPower or carbon offsets?

We all have a role to play reducing our environmental impact and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. To do that, we need independently certified options to make sure our action makes a real impact.

In this fact sheet we explain:

- ✓ how to reduce and avoid emissions, and
- ✓ why GreenPower is the best way to reduce your emissions from electricity use.

## Emissions and how to reduce or avoid them

The emissions from a business or household fall into three categories: Scope 1, 2 and 3.



### Scope 1

Scope 1 are direct on-site emissions like gas burnt for heating or the fuel use of business vehicles. They can be reduced through energy efficiency or avoided by switching to an alternative technology (such as changing from petrol vehicles to electric vehicles).



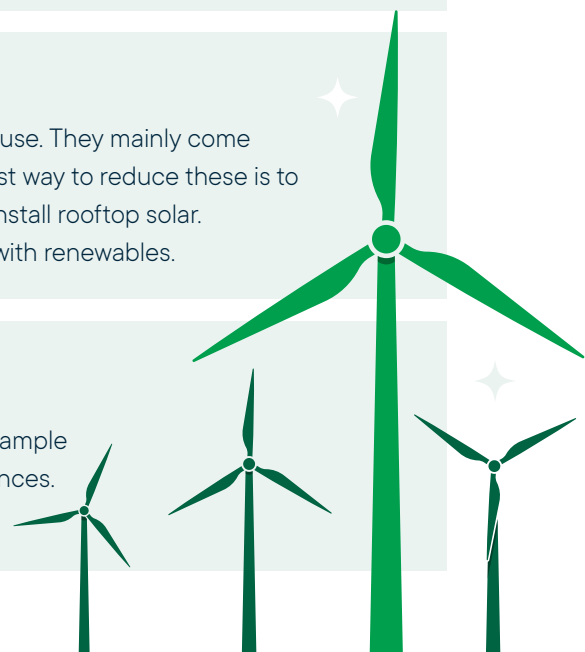
### Scope 2

Scope 2 emissions are **indirect** emissions from energy use. They mainly come from electricity generation and distribution. The simplest way to reduce these is to reduce energy consumption, maximise efficiency and install rooftop solar. GreenPower helps cover the remaining electricity use with renewables.



### Scope 3

Scope 3 emissions are indirect off-site emissions, for example from the mining of metals used to make cars and appliances. Using and wasting less helps to reduce them.



# Should you use GreenPower or carbon offsets for your electricity?

## GreenPower

**GreenPower** is the best way to avoid emissions from electricity use. GreenPower is accredited renewable energy sourced from the sun, the wind, water and waste that is added to the grid on your behalf. It aligns with best practice carbon accounting as per the World Resources Institute's Greenhouse Gas Protocol. Buying GreenPower ensures the electricity you use is matched annually with renewable electricity from our accredited renewable generators in Australia. Therefore, the Scope 2 emissions from your electricity use are net zero.

## Carbon offsets

**Carbon offsets** allow you to offset your emissions by paying for projects that reduce emissions or remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere somewhere in the world. Carbon offset projects typically include reforestation, soil improvement, landfill gas capture and more. Choosing high-quality, audited and certified offsets is important to make sure there is a proven long-term benefit.

It is best practice to only use carbon offsets where there is no renewable alternative available, as is often the case for Scope 1 and Scope 3 emissions. In Australia, they should not be used for Scope 2 emissions from electricity usage.

Offsets don't change how we produce electricity. The coal and gas power plants can keep running, creating emissions that later have to be removed from the atmosphere. Changing our energy sources is the only way we can reliably reach net zero emissions.

## GreenPower is the best way to reduce electricity emissions

GreenPower only uses certificates from Australian renewable energy generators. If you buy GreenPower, the emissions from electricity use are avoided, so they don't have to be captured again later. The carbon stays locked away in the ground. And because wind farms, solar farms, and bioenergy projects are often located in rural areas, you are supporting jobs in regional Australia. GreenPower's renewable energy certificates are created after the clean energy is added to the grid so you can be sure the impact is real.



### Our recommendation

#### **GreenPower is the best way to avoid emissions from your electricity use.**

As other renewable fuels become available, such as green hydrogen or biogas, they should also be preferred over carbon offsets.

Carbon offsets from a credible and trusted carbon offset provider should be used for any Scope 1 and 3 emissions that cannot be avoided.



**GreenPower is an investment in renewable energy projects and helps transition our electricity system to clean energy sources.**



**Carbon offsets are helpful in dealing with emissions that can't be avoided and where there is no renewable alternative.**

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