Comprehensive Carbon Footprint Report for Companion Data Services

External

Created by CarbonCents in Collaboration with Companion Data Services

For the Reporting Year of
2024

January 1st, 2024, to December 31st, 2024

COMPANION
DATA SERVICES®
A CELERIAN GROUP COMPANY

Legal Disclaimer

While CarbonCents strives for the highest quality work, certain constraints within the GHG accounting process must be noted. Owing to the constraints posed by developing emission data across different scopes, comprehensive calculations of all emissions are often unattainable. Moreover, the existing information is susceptible to discrepancies, necessitating the incorporation of certain assumptions. Depending on the quality of data submitted by the client, and with the mutual understanding of operations, the depth of the information that is received is a contributing factor to any assumptions and the work performed by CarbonCents, that will be stated later in the report.

The protocols and standard criteria referenced in this document may be updated in the future. Due to the nature of ever-changing scientific findings, it is important to reference the most up-to-date protocols when making future decisions.

Utilization of these numbers for (reports/protocols/etc.) are not permitted to be uploaded, shared, or published without the consent or knowledge of CarbonCents. We utilize industry standards, peer reviewed sources, and the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol for calculations; however, to ensure reporting standards are abided by for a specific report/protocol, publishing these numbers without our internal review process is prohibited.

Table of Contents

Introduction

This Carbon Footprint Report follows the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Corporate Standard), the most widely used framework for quantifying and reporting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Corporate Standard guides organizations in developing a GHG inventory that accurately reflects their emissions profile by applying consistent principles and methodologies. In accordance with the protocol, this process involves identifying emission sources, selecting appropriate calculation methods, gathering relevant data, and performing emissions calculations.

Carbon footprint reporting is structured around three distinct scopes, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to provide a comprehensive and accurate accounting of a company's total greenhouse gas emissions, measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MTCO_2e$). The illustration below outlines the breakdown of emissions across these scopes.

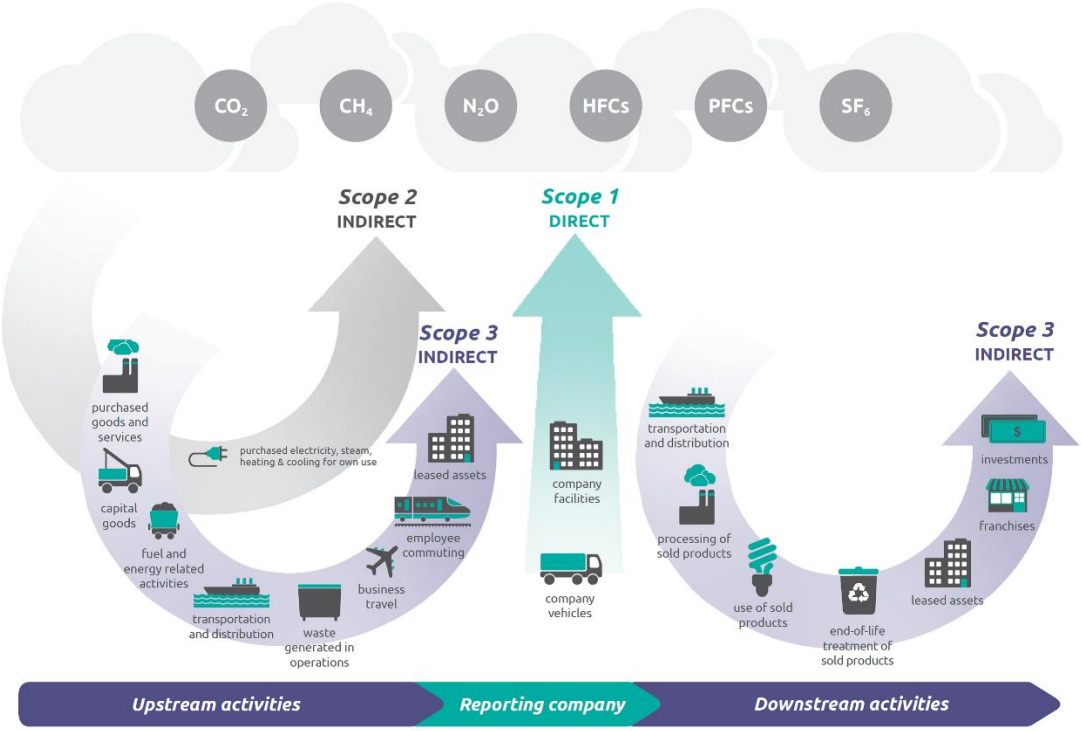

Figure 1: The Various Scope Categories Which Are Sources of Emissions. *Image Sourced from the EPA.*

Operational Boundary

To accurately assess an entity's carbon footprint, both direct and indirect emissions must be quantified for all operations falling within the organization's defined boundary. This includes emissions associated with all facilities and activities required for the entity to operate. The CDS: Texas facility has been excluded from the scope of this carbon footprint assessment due to a lack of operational control and challenges in obtaining reliable activity data from the lessor. As the facility's utilities and primary operational systems are managed externally, accurate and consistent data necessary for emissions calculation were not available during the reporting period. Future inclusion of this location may be considered if improved data access or greater operational control is established. In alignment with the Corporate Standard, these emissions are categorized into three scopes as found in the earlier section.

At CarbonCents we encourage clients to report all available emissions data and reflect this through a 'data reported' percentage. This metric is determined by evaluating which emission categories are applicable to a company's operations versus which are actively being reported. For example, if Scope 1 emissions include stationary fuel use, fertilizer application, transport fuels, and refrigerants or chemicals—and a company emits from all four categories—they must report on each to achieve a 100% Scope 1 data coverage. Based on this methodology, Companion Data Services received the following reporting percentages:

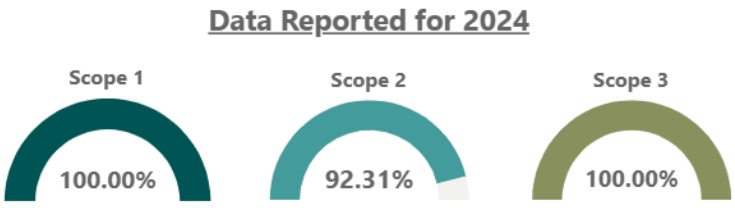

Figure 2: Data Reported Percentages per Category.

Scope 1 Categories	Reported
Fertilizers	Yes
Refrigerants & Chemicals	Yes
Stationary Fuels	Yes
Transport Fuels	Yes
Precent Reported	4/4 cat. Reported 100%

Scope 2 Categories	Reported
Purchased Electricity	Yes
Percent Reported	1/1 cat. 12/13 buildings 92.31%

Scope 3 Categories	Reported
Company Travel	Yes
Commuting	Yes
Paper	Yes
Waste	Yes
Food	Yes
Percent Reported	5/5 cat. Reported 100%

Table 1: Data Reported Percentages in Detail.

Executive Overview

This Executive Overview provides a concise summary of the key findings and recommendations outlined in this Report. The Report aims to assess and analyze the environmental impact of Companion Data Services, also referred to as the Company throughout this report, activities and operations by quantifying GHG emissions across the identified scope categories. By understanding one's carbon footprint, we can identify opportunities for sustainability initiatives that align with corporate objectives.

Project Boundaries and Methodology:

This Report follows the Corporate Standard for emissions assessment and quantification. For the purpose of this analysis, the Company has adopted the operational control approach to define its organizational boundary. An organizational boundary is set to consolidate GHG emissions and allow for consistent application, accounting, and reporting of GHG emissions. The 2021 calendar year has been designated as the baseline year for this report. The operational boundary, which will be further detailed in the section that follows, includes emissions from Scope 1, Scope 2, and selected categories within Scope 3.

Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e or CDE) emissions were calculated using published emission factors aligned with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. For Scope 1 emissions, quantification was based on emission factors from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) GHG Emission Factors Hub. Fertilizer emission quantification utilized EPA published research findings.

Scope 2 missions were calculated using the eGRID Subregion Annual Total Output Emission Rate factors. Facilities located within the SERC Virgina/Carolinas and RFCE East are matched accordingly based on geographic location.

Scope 3 emissions, commuting, company travel, and waste were calculated using the EPA GHG Emission Factors Hub. Food emissions quantification utilized published research findings from Poore and Nemecek (2018) and the Carbon Cloud database. Paper emissions quantification utilized published research findings from Tomberlin, Venditti, and Yao (2020).

Key Findings:

1. Emission Profile*:* This Report provides an in-depth breakdown of the Company's GHG emissions, highlighting the major contributors and their respective scopes. This analysis is year three of emissions tracking built upon the 2021 baseline year.
2. Drivers: Scope 2 emissions represent the Company's largest contribution. Scope 3, indirect emissions, follows as the next largest scope, driven primarily by employee commuting. The smallest scope is scope 1 where fugitive refrigerant use remains the dominant contributor annually.

3. Data Limitations and Assumptions: Further details for this can be found in the Report Notes on pages 21 and 22.

Overview

An overview of Companion Data Services total carbon emissions for 2024, reported in MTCDE, can be found in Figure 3 and Table 2.

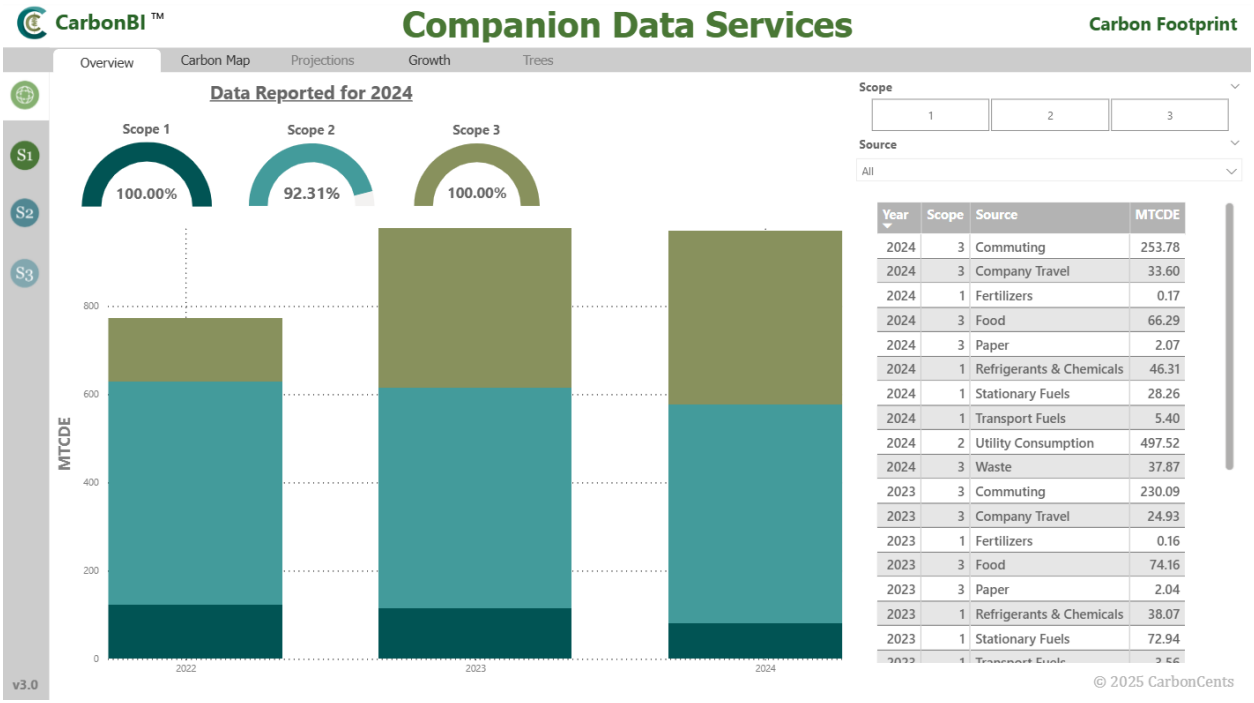

Figure 3: Annual Emissions for the Company Across All Scopes.

Companion Data Services Carbon Footprint Overview				
	2022 Emissions	**2023 Emissions**	**2024 Emissions**	**Percent Change***
Scope One	123.06	114.74	80.14	-30.16%
Scope Two	506.58	500.94	497.52	-0.68%
Scope Three	142.10	360.26	393.63	9.26%
Total	771.74	975.95	971.28	-0.48%

Table 2: Total Emission Breakdown. All Emissions Reported in MTCDE.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Scope One

Summary

In 2024, Scope 1 emissions accounted for 8.25% of total emissions.

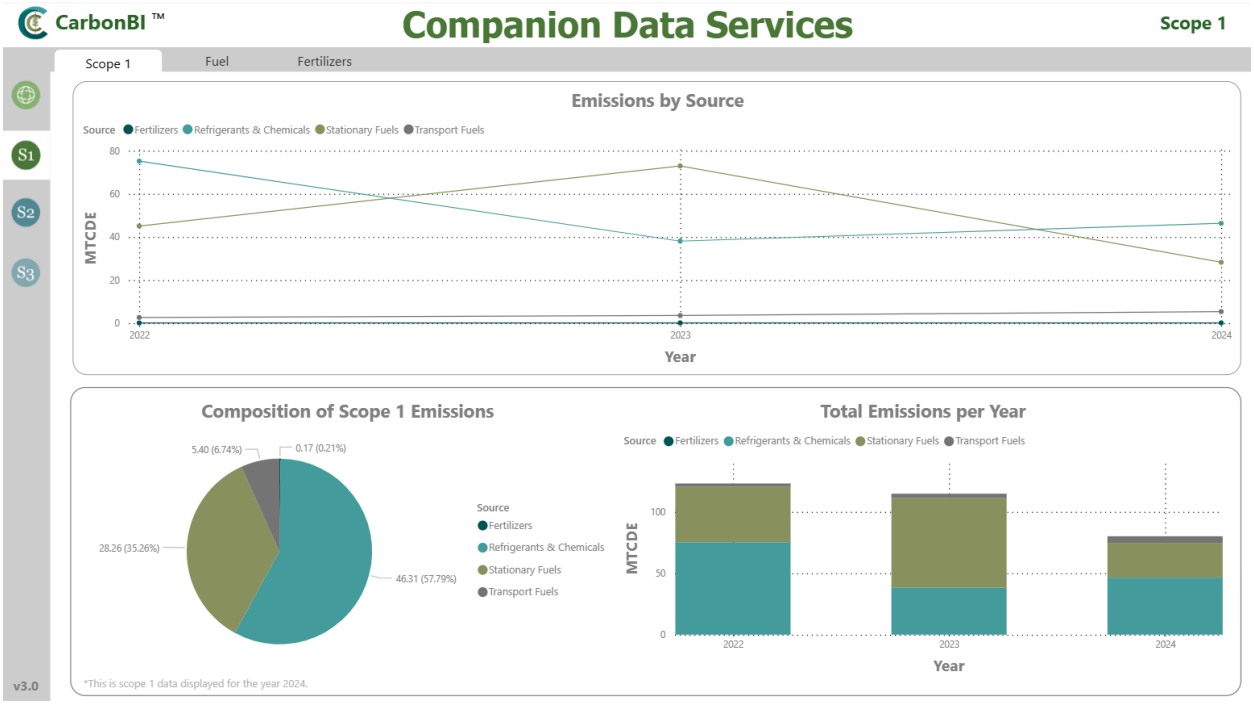

Figure 4: Total Scope 1 Emissions.

Scope 1 Emissions				
	2022	**2023**	**2024**	**Percent Change***
Fertilizers	0.13	0.16	0.17	6.25%
Refrigerants & Chemicals	75.16	38.07	46.31	21.64%
Stationary Fuels	45.07	72.94	28.26	-61.26%
Transport Fuels	2.69	3.56	5.40	51.69%
Total	123.06	114.74	80.14	-30.16%

Table 3: Total Emissions in MTCDE for Scope 1 by Year.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Scope One Categories

Transport & Stationary Fuels

The Fuel Consumption visual includes emissions from both transport & stationary fuels.

Scope 1 transport fuels are categorized as emissions from the combustion of fuel for mobile, transportation, sources owned or operated by the Company. For the Company's footprint, these emissions are sourced from activity data, miles traveled, across ten different owned vehicles. Corresponding gallons of gasoline was assumed. All assumptions taken are described in further detail in the Report Notes section of the report.

Scope 1 stationary fuels are categorized as the emissions from the combustion of fuel for stationary sources like boilers, heaters, furnaces, and any other equipment or machinery that combusts fuels to operate for the Company. For the Company's footprint, these emissions are sourced solely from natural gas for usage at the Tower facility.

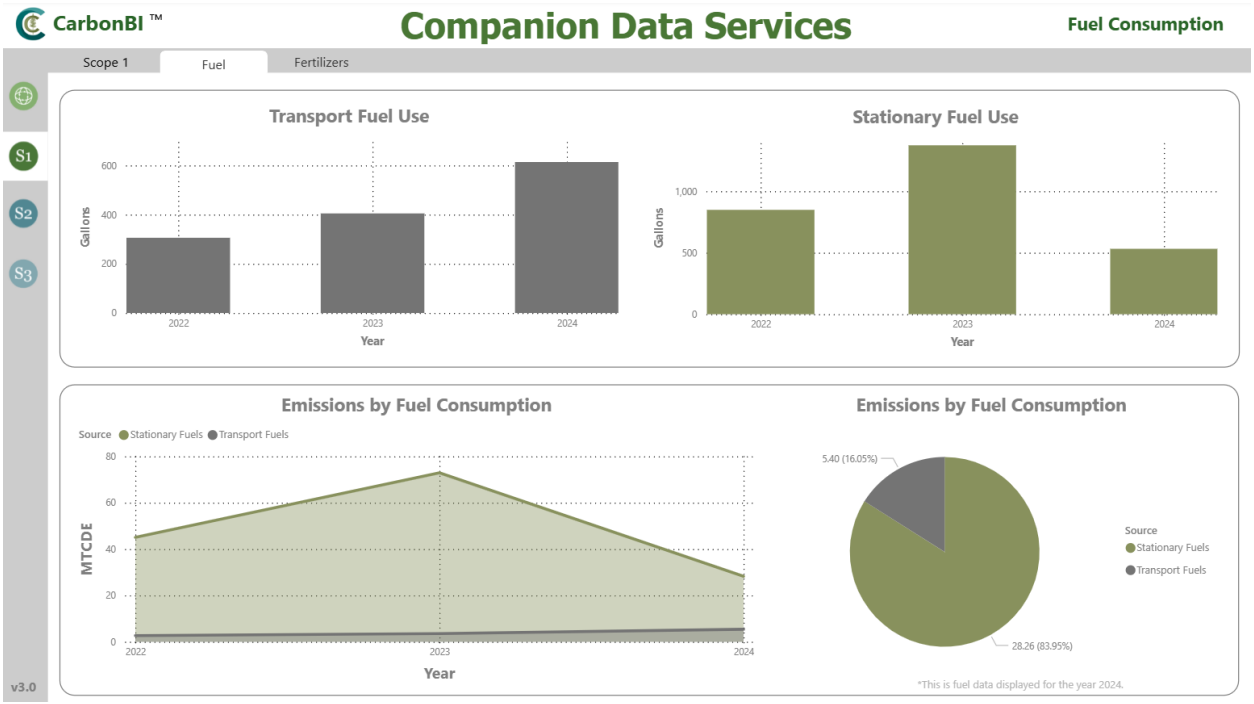

Figure 5: Transport & Stationary Fuel Emissions.

Transport Fuels				
	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change*
Emissions	2.69	3.56	5.40	51.69%

Table 4: Total Emissions in MTCDE of Transport Fuels.

Stationary Fuels				
	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change*
Emissions	45.07	72.94	28.26	-61.26%

Table 5: Total Emissions in MTCDE of Stationary Fuels.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Fertilizer

Scope 1 fertilizers are categorized as the emissions from treating Company owned land acreage through fertilizers creating nitrous oxide emissions, considered a greenhouse gas that's included in a carbon footprint. Land maintenance activities are performed under contracted service and are accounted for within the Company's Scope 1 emissions.

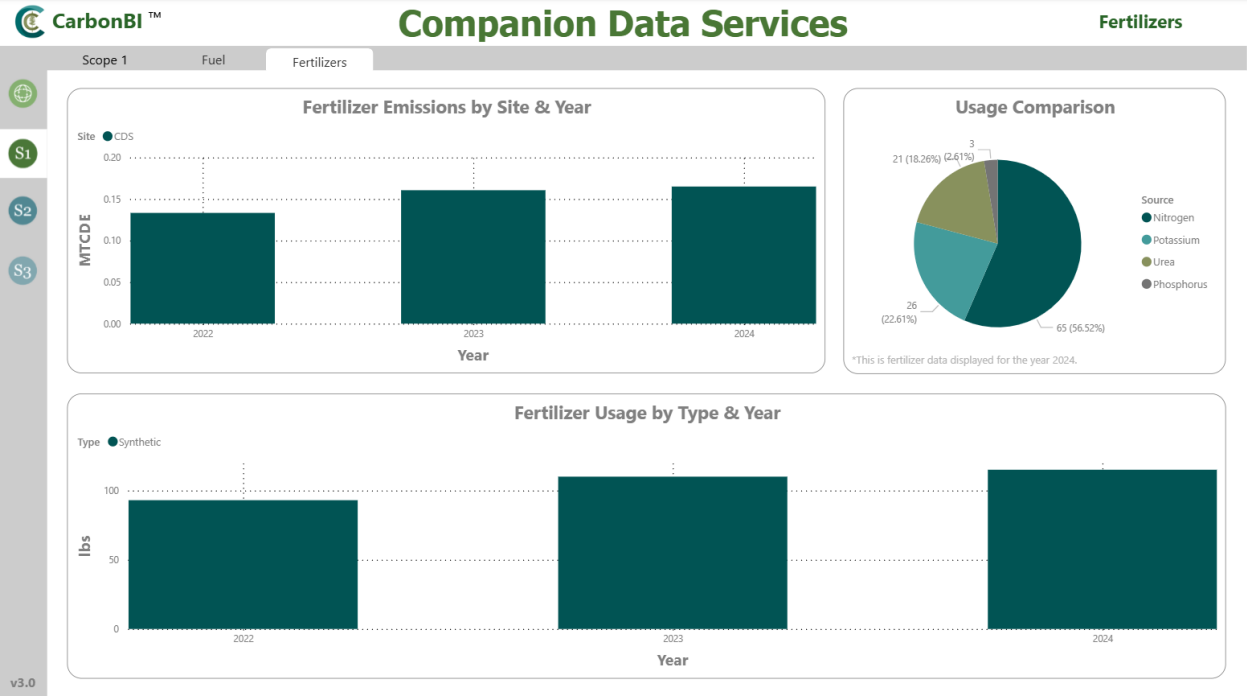

Figure 6: Fertilizer Emissions.

Fertilizers				
	2022	**2023**	**2024**	**Percent Change***
Nitrogen	0.12	0.14	0.15	7.14%
Urea	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00%
Total	0.14	0.16	0.17	6.25%

Table 6: Total Emissions in MTCDE of Fertilizers by Type and Year.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Refrigerants & Chemicals

Scope 1 refrigerants and chemicals are categorized as the emissions which result from the direct, or fugitive, release to the atmosphere of GHG compounds from various types of refrigeration equipment and air conditioning systems. Throughout the lifetime operations of these systems, maintenance or refrigerant refills is a typical requirement. However, the leak of these refrigerants is included in scope one emissions.

Refrigerants				
	2022	**2023**	**2024**	**Percent Change***
R-22	11.56	13.32	17.75	33.26%
R-134A	57.91	18.33	24.41	33.17%
R-410A	5.69	6.42	4.15	35.36%
Total	75.16	38.07	46.31	21.64%

Table 7: Total Emission in MTCDE for Refrigerants by Type and Year.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Scope Two

Summary

In 2024, Scope 2 emissions accounted for 51.22% of total emissions.

Scope Two Categories

Purchased Electricity

Scope 2 emissions are comprised of indirect emissions of energy use from purchased sources of electricity, heating or cooling by the Company. Purchased electricity was the only contributor to the Company's scope two emissions.

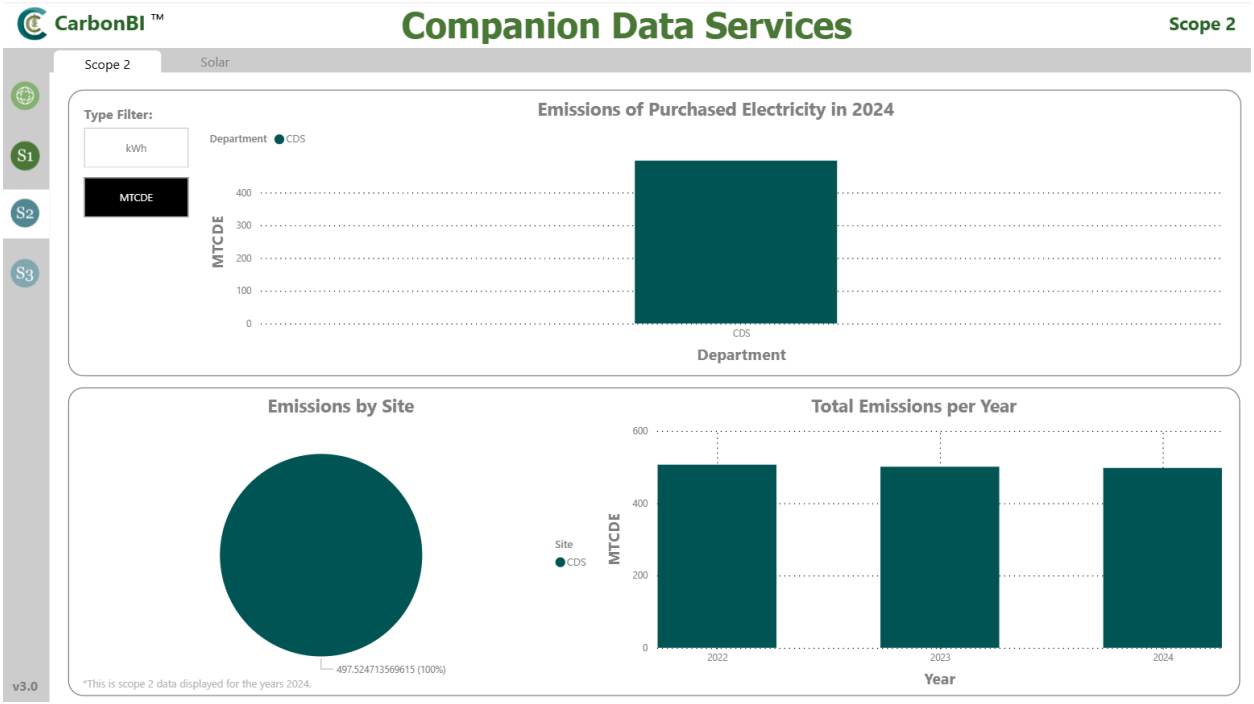

Figure 7: Total Scope 2 Emissions.

Scope 2 Emissions				
	2022	**2023**	**2024**	**Percent Change***
Electricity	506.58	500.95	497.52	-0.68%

Table 8: Total Emissions for Scope 2, Purchased Electricity, in MTCDE by Year.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Scope Three

Summary

In 2024, Scope 3 emissions accounted for 40.53% of total emissions.

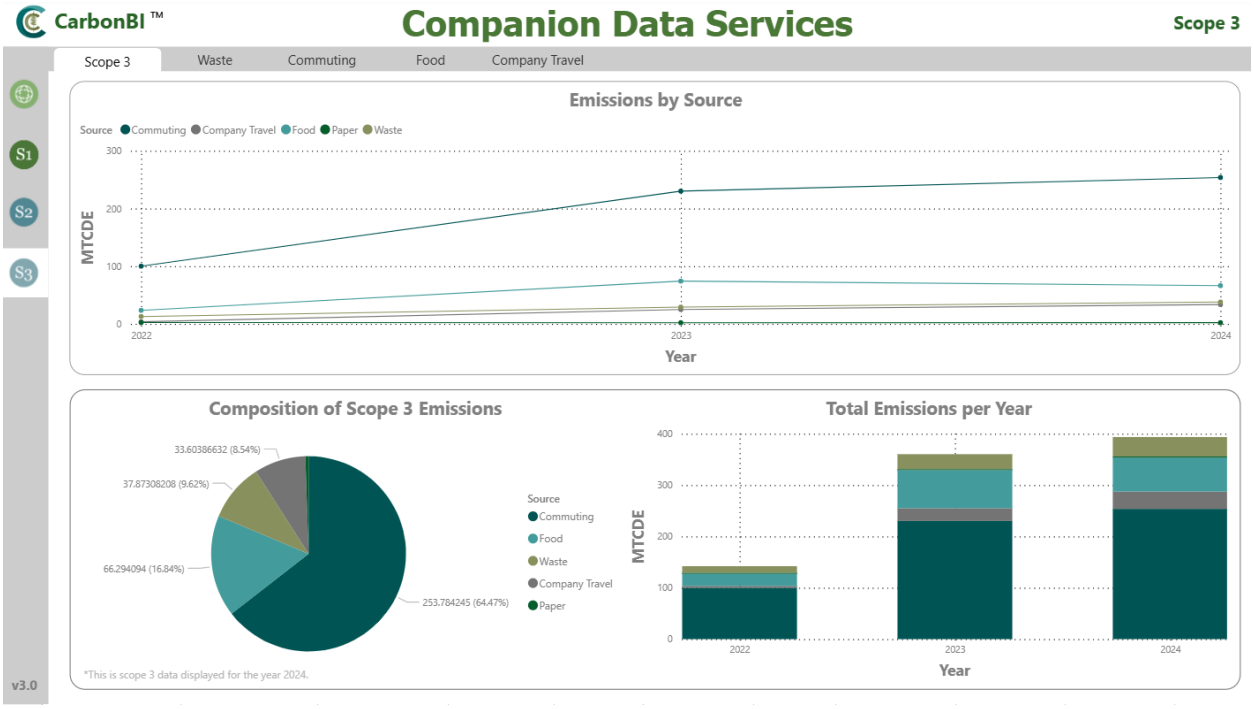

Figure 8: Total Scope 3 Emissions.

Scope 3 Emissions				
	2022	**2023**	**2024**	**Percent Change***
Company Travel	3.65	24.93	33.60	34.78%
Commuting	100.05	230.09	253.78	10.30%
Paper	2.22	2.04	2.07	1.47%
Waste	12.74	29.04	37.87	30.41%
Food	23.44	74.16	66.29	-10.61%
Total	142.10	360.26	393.63	9.26%

Table 9: Total Emissions for Scope 3 in MTCDE by Year.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Scope Three Categories

Company Travel

Scope 3 company travel is categorized as the emissions which result from sponsored or reimbursed travel on behalf of the Company by indirect sources, which are those not controlled or operated by the Company. For the Company's footprint, these emissions are sourced from automobile transportation, whether that's personal mileage reimbursement, rental car, or general auto, and air transportation.

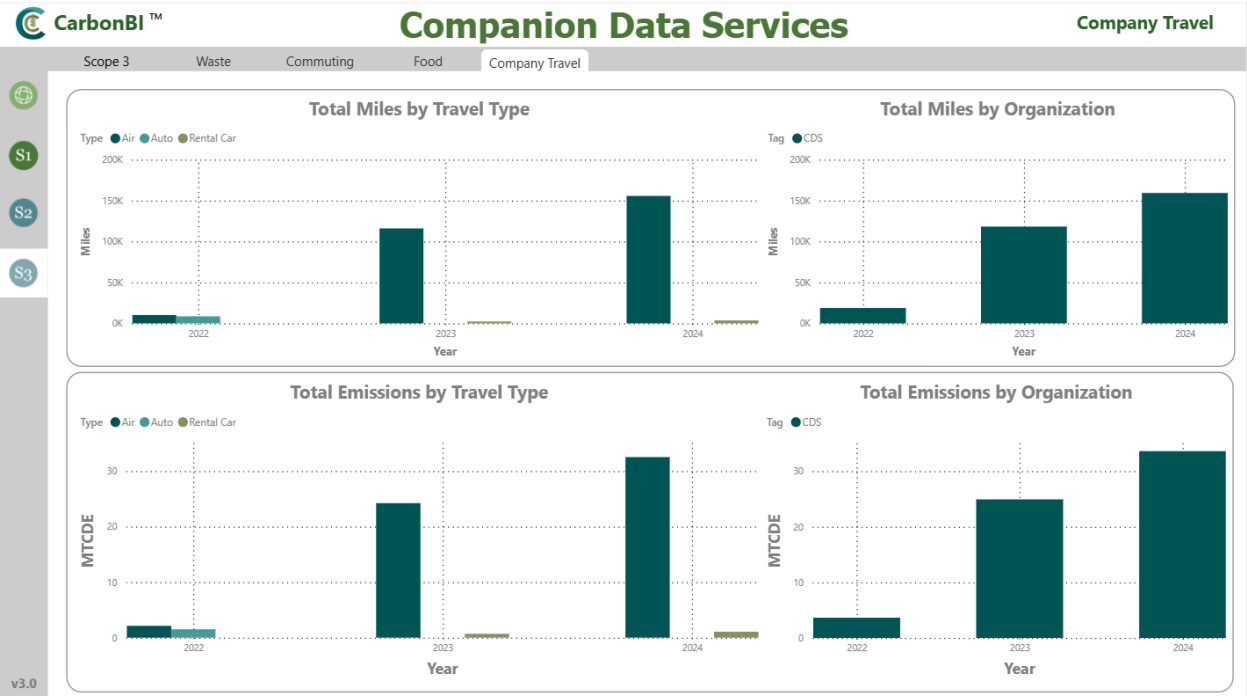

Figure 9: Total Emissions for Scope 3 Company Travel.

Company Travel				
	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change*
Auto Emissions	1.51	0.69	1.07	55.07%
Air Emissions	2.14	24.24	32.53	34.20%
Total	3.65	24.93	33.60	34.78%

Table 10: Total Emissions in MTCDE by Type and Department.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Employee Commuting

Scope 3 commuting is categorized as emissions which result from the transportation of employees between their homes and their worksite. These are indirect emissions, as a result of the Company operating. For the Company's footprint, these emissions are sourced from an estimated average round trip miles per employee count. All assumptions taken are described in further detail in the Report Notes section of the report.

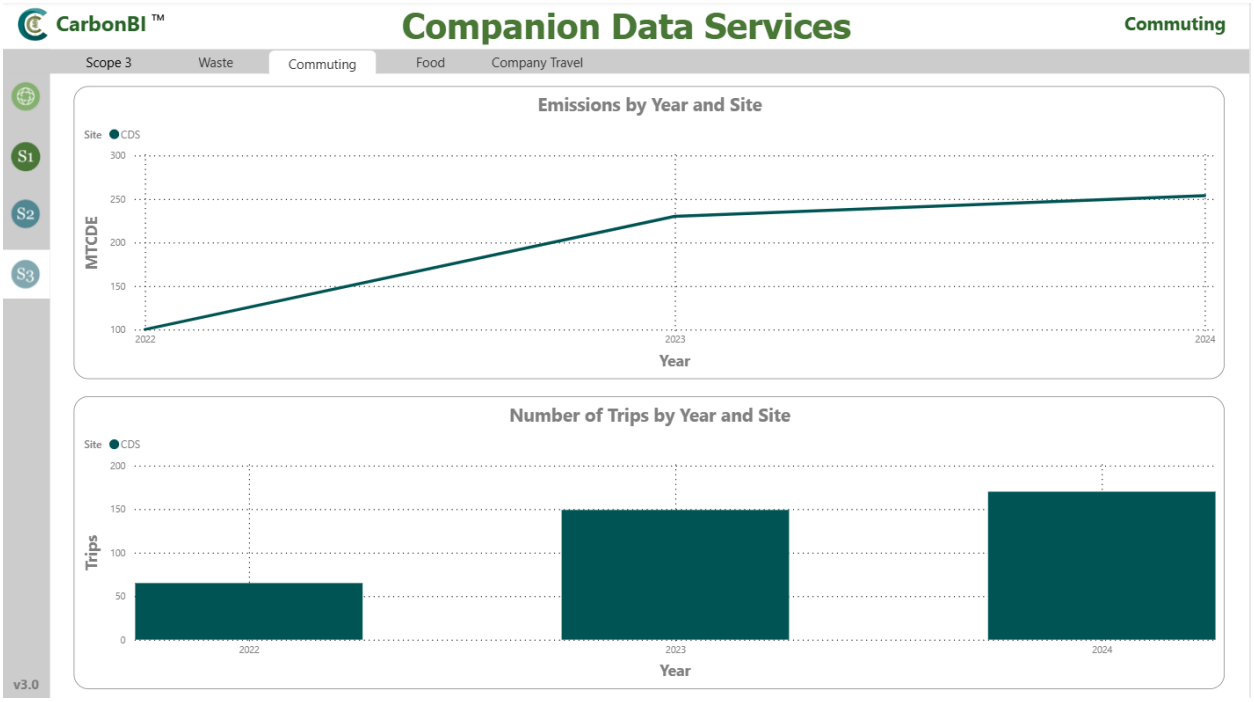

Figure 10: Total Emissions for Scope 3 Employee Commuting.

Commuting				
	2022	**2023**	**2024**	**Percent Change***
Emissions	100.05	230.09	253.78	10.30%

Table 11: Total Commuting Emissions in MTCDE per Year.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Paper

Paper is included under scope 3, category 1 of purchased goods and services emissions which are the result of the production of products purchased or acquired by the Company. For the Company's footprint, this category includes paper, given its substantial role in daily operations and the ability to accurately track its use.

Paper				
	2022	**2023**	**2024**	**Percent Change***
Emission	2.18	2.04	2.07	1.47%

Table 12: Total Paper Emissions in MTCDE per Year.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Waste

Scope 3 waste is categorized as the emissions which result from the disposal of goods on behalf of the Company that occur as a result of operations. At this point in time, recycling emissions are additionally categorized in the waste category due to, even though less than landfilling, the subsequent emissions from the recycling process. For the Company footprint, these emissions are sourced from landfilling municipal solid waste (MSW) from offices, and recycling operations of office paper and cardboard.

The recycling of materials results in the diversion of waste from the landfill, in return avoiding potential emissions, on top of supporting the transition to a circular economy. Compared to the lifetime emissions from landfilled waste, recycling lessens an organization's impact. When looking at recycled office paper for 2024, the Company was able to avoid around 2,180.12 MTCDE by recycling used office paper.

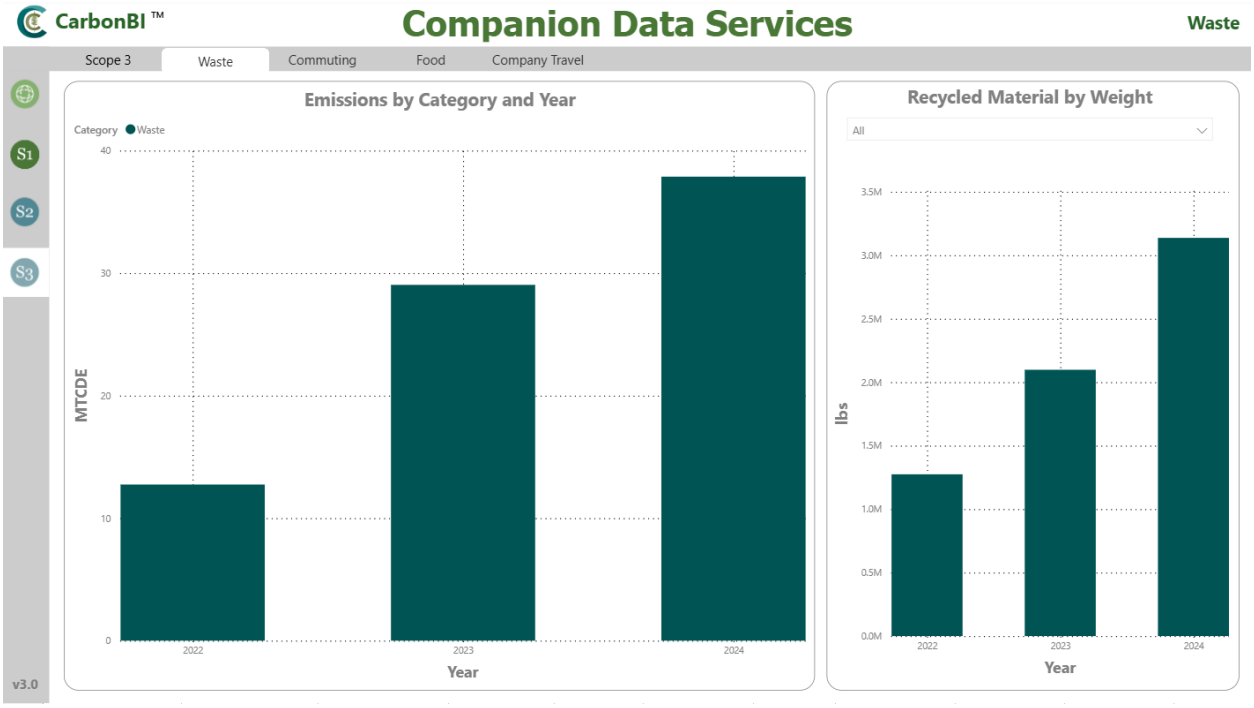

Figure 11: Waste Emissions.

Waste				
	2022	**2023**	**2024**	**Percent Change***
Municipal Solid Waste	-	5.52	5.03	-8.88%
Recycled Office Paper	12.74	20.98	31.37	49.52%
Cardboard	-	2.54	1.47	-42.13%
Total	12.74	29.04	37.87	30.41%

Table 13: Total Emissions in MTCDE from the Various Waste Operations.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Food

Food is included under scope 3, category 1 of purchased goods and services emissions which are the result of the production of products purchased or acquired by the Company. For the Company's footprint, this category includes food, given its substantial role in daily operations and the ability to accurately track its use.

The Company operates several cafeterias for its employees. The emissions provided in this report are calculated to include cradle-to-gate operations. This popular industry phrase stands for the boundary conditions that cover the activities from the extraction of materials to the point where the product, or food in this case, leaves the 'factory/manufacturer gate' to its consumer. Utilizing the total purchased food in weight by the provider, Sysco, we used emission factors from two sources, to cover obscure products and large food groups, to calculate emissions. All assumptions taken are described in further detail in the Report Notes section of the report.

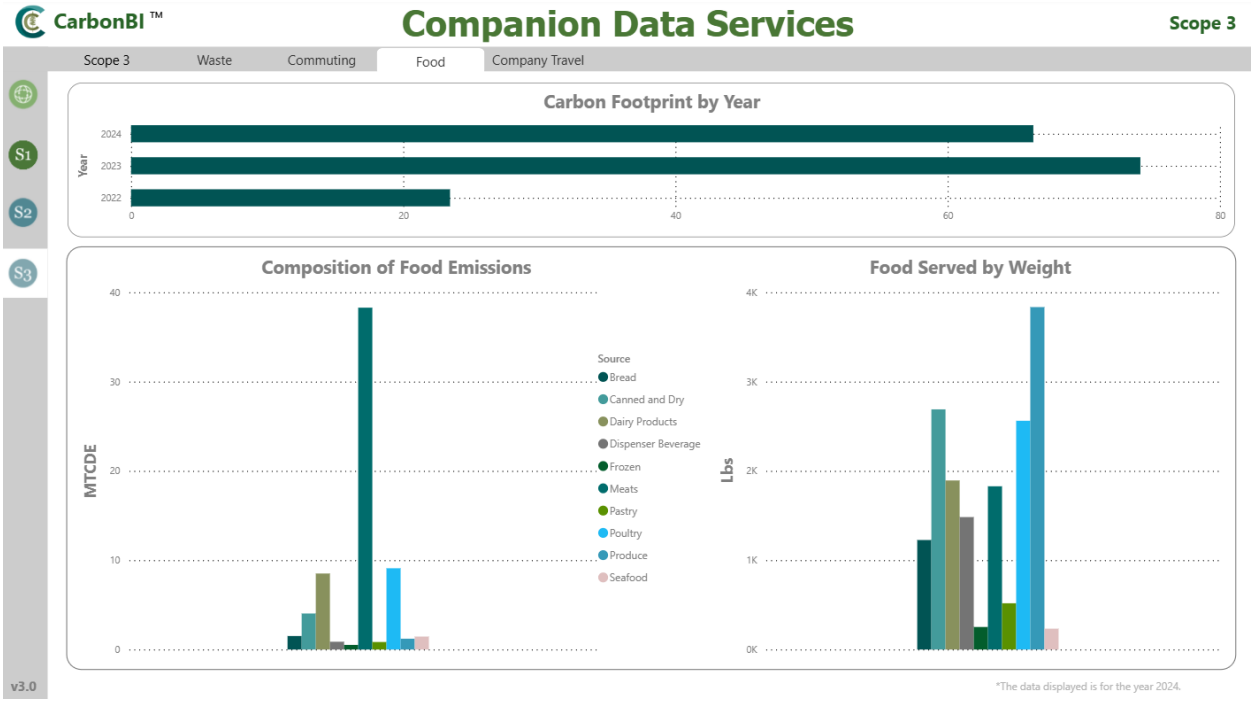

Figure 12: Food Emissions.

Food				
	2022	**2023**	**2024**	**Percent Change***
Food	23.44	74.16	66.29	-10.61%

Table 14: Total Food Emissions in MTCDE by Year.

*Percent change is only from 2023 emissions to 2024 emissions.

Report Notes

This section aims to shed light on the various limitations encountered by CarbonCents' Carbon Consultants during the execution of the Carbon Footprint. By identifying and understanding these limitations, we can derive valuable insights to enhance future project planning, mitigate risks, and improve overall project delivery. Below we will go through any and all areas that need to be addressed, in order of scopes.

1. Stationary Fuels
    - Dts of natural gas were converted to MMBtu using the conversion factor of 1 dts = 1 MMBtu.
2. Transport Fuels
    - Activity data for gasoline consumption was provided in only miles travel. To complete emission calculations, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration was utilized to estimate the fuel usage.
    - 2024 activity data was provided differently than prior years including the vehicle type leading to more accurate emission calculations.
3. Fertilizers
    - To gather the corresponding pounds of nitrogen from urea usage, it was assumed that it had 46% of nitrogen by weight.
4. Purchased Electricity
    - The eGRID has not released the 2024 electricity emission factors. As best practice, we have used the most recent available data from 2023 for this report. Once these numbers are released, we will update accordingly.
    - Due to the unavailability of current electricity consumption data for the Pennsylvania Companion Data Services building, we reused the previous year's data. Data was normalized over the population value and updated accordingly to match the increased 2024 population numbers.
5. Employee Commuting
    - In the absence of specific vehicle information for each commuter, passenger-car emission factors were applied accordingly to all entries.
    - All miles traveled for employee commuting are an estimated value provided by the Company.
6. Company Travel
    - As the distance of air travel is not included, it was assumed, under the advisory of the Company, to utilize short-haul emission factors as most flights sponsored are domestic. Additionally, as the vehicle type isn't included for auto travel, passenger-car emission factors were applied accordingly to all entries.
7. Waste

- Municipal solid waste (MSW) for office waste and cardboard recycling is assumed utilizing the provided pick-up schedule. By understanding the size of dumpsters, the typical type of waste, and the frequency of pick up, we were able to utilize a volume-to-weight ratio from the EPA to gather an estimated weight value for emission calculations.

8. Food
    - Food data is provided by Sysco through an itemized purchased order list. The various entries are manually categorized into a designated category. Because of this, there is room for human error and generalizations to fit in the available categories as it is hard to do a specific category for each value.
    - Emissions related to food were calculated using two different sources. One provided a higher level of accuracy, while the other required assumptions for the less defined items due to the broad range of food types and options available.
    - Activity data provided was normalized to remove entries from entities outside of the organizational boundary. Due to this, estimations were utilized to have a more accurate representation of consumption.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this Carbon Footprint Report provides a comprehensive analysis of Companion Data Services' environmental impact through the quantification of Greenhouse Gas emissions. In writing carbon footprint reports, CarbonCents aims to provide the ability to gain valuable insight into the sources and scopes of your emissions, and through this, enable the awareness of current operations.

As per CarbonCents standards, we uphold and go beyond industry standards to provide the most accurate and specific emissions equivalents for each organization's operations. Our unique database has been compiled from a combination of publications from EPA, EIA, IPCC, and peer reviewed sources as our factors, and if further information is required, please contact any CarbonCents representative.

It is essential to highlight that our carbon footprint assessments are an ongoing process. Regular monitoring, reporting, and reassessment of emission reduction initiatives are necessary to ensure continuous improvement and cost reductions and to align with evolving environmental standards and regulations.

In closing, we extend our gratitude to all individuals and teams involved in the data collection, analysis, and reporting processes. Their dedication and commitment have been instrumental in providing us with necessary insights to drive positive change.