



# 2020 CORPORATE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE POSITIVE PROJECT

*Prepared by:*

Xavier Bengoa (Quantis)

*For:*



*Date: 15 July 2021*

*Contact:*

Xavier Bengoa

*Senior consultant*

[xavier.bengoa@quantis-intl.com](mailto:xavier.bengoa@quantis-intl.com)

Quantis is a leading life cycle assessment (LCA) consulting firm specialized in supporting companies to measure, understand and manage the environmental impacts of their products, services and operations. Quantis is a global company with offices in Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy and the United States. It employs 200 people, amongst which several are internationally renowned experts.

Quantis offers cutting-edge services in environmental footprinting (multiple indicators including carbon and water), eco-design, sustainable supply chains and environmental communication. Quantis also provides innovative and customized digital solutions, which enable organizations to evaluate, analyze and manage their environmental footprint with ease. Fueled by its close ties with the scientific community and its strategic research collaborations, Quantis has a strong track record in applying its knowledge and expertise to accompany clients in transforming LCA results into decisions and action plans. More information can be found at [www.quantis-intl.com](http://www.quantis-intl.com).

This report has been prepared by the Swiss office of Quantis. Please direct all questions regarding this report to Quantis Switzerland.

#### **Quantis Switzerland**

EPFL Innovation Park, Bâtiment D

1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

Tel: +41 21 353 59 19

[hello@quantis-intl.com](mailto:hello@quantis-intl.com)

[www.quantis-intl.com](http://www.quantis-intl.com)

# Executive Report

## CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The Positive Project (TPP) is a Swiss consulting firm founded in 2017, offering financial, accounting and sustainability services. As a certified B Corporation<sup>1</sup> since 13 May 2020, it is a purpose-driven company committed to continuous improvement towards exemplarity with regards to its sustainable business practices. In this context, TPP has commissioned Quantis to perform its first corporate carbon footprint.

TPP is a small company of four part-time employees, with a total FTE of 0.9 in average through 2020 and a total revenue of CHF 232'500. It operates without a physical office, with its consultants working either remotely or directly at the client's premises. Grown out of deep sustainability values, TPP has organically implemented a series of practices to limit its environmental impact, such as commuting almost exclusively using soft mobility.

This corporate carbon footprint is based on the GHG Protocol Corporate and Value Chain Standards put out by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WRI/WBCSD 2007, 2011, 2013) and is inspired by the International Organization for Standardization's 14040 Standard for Life Cycle Assessment Principles and Framework (ISO 2006).

The specific goals of this study are as follows:

- 1) Produce TPP's corporate carbon footprint for 2020 as reference year, including "Scope 1," "Scope 2," and "Scope 3" sources (WRI/WBCSD 2007, 2011), with a focus on efficiently understanding the key areas of impact.
- 2) Work with TPP's team to understand and answer key questions relating to the environmental sustainability performance of its operations and supply chain.

This Executive Report is intended to provide results in a clear and useful manner to support communication of environmental performance to internal and external audiences such as partners, suppliers, customers, and the public.

In this study, the following activities are considered in each scope:

- Scope 1: owned vehicles energy use (bicycles and e-bikes)
- Scope 2: electricity use for IT devices (at home)
- Scope 3): business travels (by car and train), purchased goods (IT devices, printed paper), data storage (cloud storage of data and back-ups)

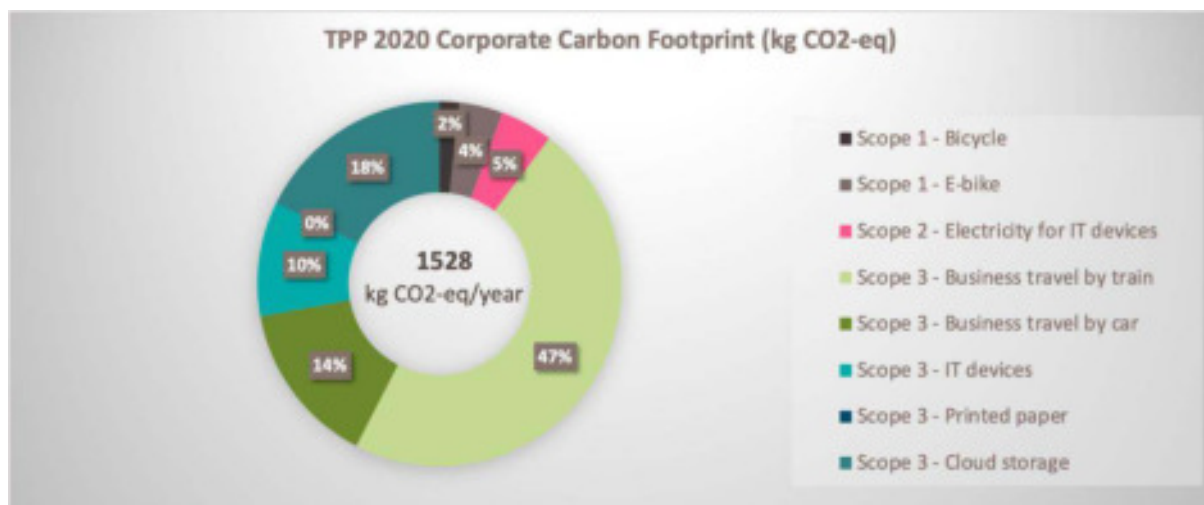
---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.blab-switzerland.ch/>

Data were collected from TPP and linked to generic greenhouse gas (GHG) emission factors from the ecoinvent database, version 3.7 (Weidema et al. 2013), using the IPCC 2013 climate change factors with global warming potential (GWP) of 100 years (IPCC 2013).

## RESULTS

As shown in the figure below, Scope 3 emissions dominate TPP's corporate footprint, contributing around 90% of greenhouse gas emissions. Scopes 1 and 2 each account for 5% of total greenhouse gas emissions.



Scope 3 emissions are driven heavily by Business travels, with travels by train accounting for 47% and travels by car accounting for 34% of the total GHG footprint. Cloud storage is also an important source of GHG emissions with 18% of the total.

TPP's total GHG footprint in 2020 amounts to 1528 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq, or 1388 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq per FTE, or 6.57 g CO<sub>2</sub>-eq per swiss franc (CHF) of revenue.

## CONCLUSIONS

TPP has already implement many of the actions that could be expected from similar service companies in order to reduce their corporate carbon footprint. The areas for further attention concern:

- Business travel: there is room to reduce further the impact from business travel by avoiding the residual car transport. It is however unclear the extent to which the 2020 pandemic has influenced the amount of business travels.
- Cloud storage: further efforts can be put on insuring that duplicate electronic data are not unintentionally being stored in the cloud. Regular sanitization of the corporate data

and verification of the appropriate set up of back-up systems can help to limit the amount of storage space used by TPP's collaborators.

Given the very small size of TPP (0.9 FTE), it can reasonably be expected that its corporate carbon footprint may significantly change from one year to another. We therefore recommend to track the carbon footprint per FTE and per CHF of revenue as key performance indicators.

## REFERENCES

IPCC. (2013) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report. <http://www.ipcc.ch/>.

ISO 14040 (2006). Environmental management – life cycle assessment – principles and framework. ISO 14040:2006. Geneva, Switzerland.

WRI/WBCSD (2007). A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard - revised.

WRI/WBCSD (2011). Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard

WRI/WBCSD (2013). Required Greenhouse Gases in Inventories – Accounting and Reporting

Weidema B.P., Bauer C., Hirsch R., Mutel C., Nemecek T., Reinhard J., Vadenbo C.O., & Wernet G. 2013. Overview and methodology. Data quality guideline for the ecoinvent database version 3. Ecoinvent Report 1(v3). The ecoinvent Centre. St. Gallen, Switzerland