

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Reporting – A Short Guide for the Bus Industry

INTRODUCTION

The reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption is mandatory for bus operations providing they meet certain thresholds.

The deadline for reporting if you met those thresholds this year has passed so please contact the Department and advise them you wish to seek advice on registering.

CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT:

Call Warwick Armstrong on (02) 6159 7719 or email reporting@climatechange.gov.au or call general inquiries on 1800 018 831.

STEP 1 → WHAT ARE THE THRESHOLDS?

There are two levels at which a bus operation has to register to report – **FACILITY THRESHOLDS** and **CORPORATION THRESHOLDS**.

A **FACILITY THRESHOLD** is calculated as emissions and energy use for a **single** facility (see definition below) while a corporation threshold is calculated across a corporation with **multiple** facilities.

If in the 08-09 Financial Year your operation exceeded either:

- **100 Terajoules of energy for a FACILITY THRESHOLD**
- **500 Terajoules of energy for a CORPORATION THRESHOLD**

For a bus operation this can mean:

- **2.59 million litres of diesel fuel for a FACILITY THRESHOLD**
- **12.95 million litres of diesel fuel for a CORPORATION THRESHOLD**

The **CORPORATION THRESHOLD** is being phased in over three years. This means you will exceed the threshold if:

- In the 09-10 Financial Year your operation will exceed **9.01 million litres** of diesel fuel
- In the 10-11 Financial Year your operation will exceed **5.18 million litres** of diesel fuel

Remember you also have to take into account your electricity and other energy use.

STEP 2→ DO I EXCEED THE THRESHOLDS?

You can calculate your eligibility online using the NGERs (Greenhouse Reporting) calculator. Go to the following link:

<https://www.oscar.gov.au/Deh.Oscar.Extension.Web/Content/NgerThresholdCalculator/Default.aspx>

STEP 3 → WHAT IS A FACILITY?

Under the Act, a transport facility is all energy consuming or greenhouse gas emitting activities occurring within the borders of a State or Territory.

- **GENERAL PRINCIPLE** If all of your depots and offices are in the one state and all of your fuel is purchased within the same state you are a **SINGLE FACILITY** operation.

If, however, all your depots and offices are within one state but you purchase fuel in another state you will be classified as a **MULTIPLE FACILITY** operation.

- **EXAMPLE:** XYZ Coaches runs coaches in NSW and Victoria and purchases fuel in NSW and Victoria. XYZ Coaches has two facilities and is a **MULTIPLE FACILITY** operation.

Under the Act, the State or Territory where the energy is consumed, or activities occur, is where the fuel is purchased.

- **EXAMPLE:** XYZ coach has facilities (as defined by the Act) in NSW and Victoria. A bus is fuelled in Victoria and drives into NSW; the fuel use for this run is attributed to its Victorian facility.

The bus then fuels up in NSW to return to Victoria; the fuel use for this run is attributed to its NSW facility.

Other energy consuming or emitting activities besides fuel use are to be attributed to a State or Territory facility.

- **EXAMPLE:** XYZ Coaches has a ticketing office in NSW and Victoria and has facilities (as defined by the Act) in NSW and Victoria. When reporting, the energy use from the NSW ticketing office should be attributed to the NSW facility.

STEP 4 → HOW DO I REPORT?

The following is a link to more information about the reporting requirements:

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/reporting/index.html>

The following link is a fact sheet on how to report:

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/reporting/publications/pubs/fs-ngers.pdf>

You can report using the online registration application tool at the following link:

<https://www.oscar.gov.au/Deh.Oscar.Extension.Web/Content/NgerRegistrationApplication/>

If you are still uncertain about how to report, please contact the Department of Climate Change.

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WHY SHOULD I REPORT?

The BIC suggests all operators should consider following the reporting process whether they are eligible to report or not.

The accounting processes required to report allow for the monitoring of fuel purchasing and power usage, which is good business practice.

PENALTIES

There are penalties for non-reporting under the Act and though most of these are corrective and aim at guiding the operator towards providing the right information, but deliberately dishonest reporting can lead to harsher penalties.

LEGAL ADVICE

This document is intended as a guide to your requirements, not definitive advice on how to conduct your business.

The BIC encourages any operators who are uncertain about their status under the Act to seek legal advice.

Please call the BIC on (02) 6247 5990 if you have any feedback about this document or further inquiries about the legislation.

Michael Apps
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