

ITT Conference 2026: Carbon & Sustainability Evaluation Report

July 2026, Prepared for ITT by TerraVerde Sustainability



Foreword



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“ This is the second annual report, both measuring the Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and the impact of ITT’s annual conference 2026, in Malaga Spain. It follows on from the baseline report that TerraVerde carried out in 2025 and provides a clear picture of where the association has reached with its sustainability. Carbon measurement results show a reduction on 2025, however this is mainly due to a technical issue where (best practice dictates) that aviation “RF” (radiative forcing) is now displayed separately. Once folded back in, the overall footprint is similar to 2025. Beyond this headline we can see some areas where positive progress has been made, and also a number where significant challenges remain. The Curio Higueron is a nice property, located in a region of Spain most subject to overdevelopment, overcrowding, increasingly unbearable temperatures from global warming and anti-tourism sentiment among locals. Both local representatives, revealed that they prefer to leave the region during high season. These are critical long term issues facing travel & tourism. However with only one main stage session, the fact that conference content barely touched upon the subject was surely a missed opportunity. The sustainability event in May at the Phoenix Arts Club amply demonstrated that the topic has the potential to attract a new and engaged demographic to the association. Developing this community will be the key priority for the sustainability committee. However, this initiative will likely not succeed if ITT is not perceived as an organisation where sustainability is “baked in, but rather sprinkled on top.”

- The Higueron epitomised this situation. Amber and the Dellar Davies team should be complemented for sourcing a hotel, which is part of Hilton’s Light Stay programme and states creditable use of renewable and solar energy. It was also noticeable that food waste and plastics were being minimised, which marked an improvement on the previous year. However, there were other obvious shortcomings, such as no – option to opt out of daily towel changes. Additionally verifying the data has proved a real challenge. The hotel representative admitted that they had never been asked for similar information before. Energy and water data the hotel has supplied lie outside of the normal benchmarks, and consequently have been queried. To date we have not received a reply on this. Furthermore, we were unable to meet the hotel during the stay due to staff turnover & stretched resources.
- On a positive note the associations investment of €4,344 in the Folia certified carbon sequestration project is a real achievement, both in raising the funds, but also in taking the steps to register this officially in Spain’s carbon registry. The circa 88 tonnes of carbon (tco2e) that it saves represents approximately 50% of the footprint of the event. It also gives ITT official rights to track progress and received updates which can be circulated, over the coming 5 years.

We trust the report makes insightful reading for the ITT team and look forward to getting feedback.



Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone at ITT, Dellar Davies, Andalusia Tourism and the Hotel Higueron who contributed to the data collection process.



Executive Summary

This project has delivered the following outcomes / findings:

1. A GHG measurement and impact assessment of the ITT Conference held June 2026 in Malaga, Spain; delivering continuity to ITT's internal reporting and sustainability engagement.
2. The footprint of the Conference which totaled **109.49 metric tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent* excluding radiative forcing** (76.55 tco2e).
3. As with the previous conferences, travel contributed the bulk of total emissions. At **88.41 tCO2e** transport was **80.75%** of total emissions.
4. Energy and food were again substantial contributors to total footprints. With food and beverage totalling 13.64 tCO2e (12.57%) and hotel fuel and energy 5.46 tCO2e (4.99%). *N.B. these are provisional figures as we are still awaiting clarifications from the hotel Higueron to outstanding questions.*
5. Comparing like for like with 2025, total emissions inclusive of RFI were 186.05 tCO2e, a rise of 4% on 2025's 179.46 tCO2e. However, when comparing emissions intensity, there was a reduction in total emissions inclusive of RFI of 9% from 717.84 kgCO2e / delegate in 2025 to 652.80 kgCO2e / delegate. It should be noted that this risks a further increase in 2027 if the association picks a location that is further afield.
6. Separation of radiative forcing for flights – inline with best practice, radiative forcing is expressed separately from total event emissions. Radiative forcing adds an additional 76.5 tCO2e.
7. Restoration project – as part of the event impact activities, ITT diverted EUR 4,344 toward the Algorrobo woodland restoration project, on the outskirts of Malaga. This addresses much needed deforestation in the region, capturing circa 88 tCo2e (over a 30-year period), preventing soil erosion and providing corridors for local wildlife. It is developed and run by Folia Project. Funds are credited on the official Spanish carbon registry & give ITT progress update rights.

*exclusive of radiative forcing (RFI) for aviation

Recommendations



Key Recommendations



1

It is recommended that ITT ramp-up board level support in building its sustainability community. The aim will be to add a new demographic to the association's membership & activities. The conference is the prime vehicle in establishing this, via authentic thought leadership & relevance in the space. It relies upon the leadership incorporating ESG topics into main stage content across the event via challenging debate & exchange of best practice.

2

A further key element is enhanced alignment with the sustainability agendas of host destinations. Many are increasingly being impacted by climate change, overtourism etc. However, simultaneously they are nervous to scare off visitors. Grasping this nettle; engaging the outbound UK travel sector in debate and aligning with destination partners (as Bruce Poon Tip encouraged) is increasingly a highly fertile topic for the association to address.

3

The blueprint set by this year's contribution to the Folio project is one we recommend to be continued in future years. It fulfilled the donation pledge to compensate for travel, with a verified carbon amount held in a Spanish registry. Additionally, it has clear benefits for the local destination visited, with ITT also being granted progress update rights, for future communication to the membership.

4

ITT/DD should continue to build upon the anatomy of organising a sustainable travel conference. Progress has been made but inconsistencies remain. These include areas such as innovating with lower impact (biofuel/EV) ground transport; ensuring hotel partners offer opt outs on daily towel changes and adopting sustainable badge options such as "Blendology."

5

The above needs to be supported by improved verified data from key suppliers; notably the hotel partner. This has been opaque in 2026. So from next year onwards we would recommend asking the provider to answer a framework of around 50 questions (many yes/no) upfront, which can establish a broad picture of its ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) credentials. Adherence to this approach needs to be established at procurement stage.

6

Engaging delegates positively to reduce their impact should also be a key element in the event's lifecycle. Notably communication should include pre and post departure, as well as in-event (see recommendation #1). A start was made this year both with water preservation (in a highly water stressed region) and options to take a lower carbon flight. The aim is not to preach to delegates, but to motivate with inspirational stories and practical tips.

Methodology and Key Assumptions



Overview - The ITT Conference footprints was calculated using TerraVerde's event carbon calculator and JEM, TerraVerde's tour and travel carbon accounting platform.

Data supplied by Dellar Davies included flights, meal plans, production materials, and transport. Hotel Higueron supplied, electricity, fuel, waste, water and outsourced laundry data. Some of the data seems inconsistent with established international benchmarks, so is currently being verified for the collection methodology with the property.

For the Conference - Total event delegates numbered 285, while Dellar Davies, ITT and production staff and crew were 18 in total.

Flights - Flights were calculated using known flight numbers for a limited number of delegates, emissions were calculated using carrier level data from Travel Impact Model (TIM). The remainder of the emissions for delegate travel were based on the same percentage of flights from London and Manchester (85% and 15% respectively) and Google TIM data was used for these flights as well. For staff and crew, flights were measured using the carrier level data provided and TIM as the emissions data provider. Radiative forcing has been separated out from total emissions, in line with best practice.

Transport - Airport transfers were calculated using information provided by Dellar Davies. Taxis were estimated based on the remainder of attendees, with an average of 1.3 PAX per taxi as per Dellar Davies estimates. Transport during the event was measured by inputting point to point routes in Google maps and applying the diesel coach passenger.km emissions factor from the UK Gov 2025 conversion factors.

Energy Consumption - Energy consumption data was provided by the venue. The grid emissions factor used was based on the International Energy Agency's (IEA) value for Spain for a standard tariff and total energy emissions are inclusive of scope 1 / 2 combustion and scope 3 generation and transmission.

Water Consumption and Treatment - Emissions factors specific to water supply and treatment in Spain are not publicly available; therefore, UK emissions factors were applied as a proxy. This approach may underestimate actual emissions, given Malaga's water supply includes a higher proportion of energy-intensive desalination.

Waste - Detailed waste data provided by the hotel covered only cardboard that was recycled. There was no data on the remainder of waste, as such the same weight per delegate as the previous year (2025) was used (4.16kg/delegate) and a general mixed waste emissions factor (UK Gov 2025) was applied. As the disposal method was not specified, landfill was assumed as the default scenario to ensure a conservative estimate of associated emissions.

Food – Detailed data was provided by Dellar Davies for welcome party, gala dinner and farewell party. Emissions calculations for these menus were developed using Agribalayse menu match or proxy meals. For lunches and breakfasts, as no detailed data was provided, proxy estimations using TerraVerde's JEM based on Agribalayse data were used.

Environmental Impact Summary



The 2026 ITT Conference demonstrated several positive steps towards reducing its environmental impact, particularly through its support of the Folia Project "Algarrobo", a forest restoration initiative located on the outskirts of Málaga. The project was selected specifically because of its relatively low risk of future deforestation and wildfire, helping to maximise the long-term permanence of restoration outcomes. The importance of investing in resilient restoration projects has been further underlined by the severe wildfires experienced across parts of Spain during the summer of 2026, which highlight the increasing vulnerability of Mediterranean ecosystems to climate change. The (circa) 88 tco2e saved represent approximately 50% of the events footprint, once making an allowance for aviation radiative forcing.

Regarding the Higueron hotel, evaluating its sustainability credentials has been a challenge. Positively it has obtained independently verified environmental certification through ISO 140001 and ISO 50001 for energy management. This information was sourced via Booking.com, however it proved difficult to get concrete information from the hotel itself. The hotel's website talks about, "Humanism, authenticity, art and sustainability" however no concrete evidence is given to back this up. Unevidenced claims risk contravening green consumer protection legislation both in the UK and the EU (EMPCO). Furthermore it was difficult to get information directly from the property, due to staff shortage & relatively low awareness among the staff dealt with. The following practical observations were made from being, "on the ground" at the event:

- Guests did not have an option to opt-out of daily towel changes, nor did the hotel promote this in anyway. Rooms were fitted with key activated energy saving devices, however in rooms we saw, dummy keys were wedged in to circumnavigate the environmental measure.
- Positively the event reduced reliance on single-use promotional materials compared with previous years. Reusable water bottles were also placed in room, rather than single use plastic. The limited use of printed brochures and other paper-based information, together with a reduction in promotional giveaways, and in room single use plastics helped to reduce resource consumption and waste generation.
- Event badges are a highly visible aspect. We'd recommend that these are recycled at the end of the event and duplicate badges for side events are eliminated. A further smart innovation would be to use <https://www.blendology.com/> which not only removes waste, it also makes exchanging contact details between delegates seamless and user friendly. This is already used by TTG Media for their events.
- One area of concern was the choice of delegate gift. Seed packets presented in small glass vials with cork stoppers were placed in guest rooms. While intended to promote biodiversity, distributing Spanish-native seeds to an international audience introduces a poteal biosecurity risk if seeds are transported and planted outside their native range. The accidental introduction of non-native plant species can contribute to invasive species establishment, disrupt local ecosystems, and conflict with international biosecurity guidance. Future gifts should avoid distributing viable plant material unless it is clearly intended for local use only or complies with relevant phytosanitary requirements.
- Catering represented another significant environmental impact. Though food waste was visibly reduced; meat featured prominently throughout the conference menus, resulting in a higher greenhouse gas footprint than menus with a greater proportion of plant-based options. Livestock production is associated with substantially higher emissions than most plant-based foods due to enteric methane emissions, feed production, land use, and resource-intensive farming practices. Increasing the availability and prominence of vegetarian, vegan or locally source fish meals would provide a straightforward opportunity to reduce the event's overall carbon footprint while maintaining delegate choice.
- Due to incomplete data, it was not possible to assess total water consumption associated with the event. Given the increasing pressures on water resources in southern Spain, improved monitoring and reporting of water use would enable future events to identify opportunities for conservation and demonstrate good environmental stewardship. Similarly, insufficient information was available regarding waste management and recycling performance. Without data on waste generation and recycling rates, it is not possible to determine the effectiveness of waste segregation measures or quantify diversion from landfill. Collecting and reporting these metrics should be a priority for future events to support continuous improvement and transparent sustainability reporting.

A further advancement that can be made would be to provide lower carbon ground transport. TUI have already explored using "HVO" biofuels for coach transport on the Costa Del Sol, which reduce emissions by up to 80% on diesel. There is also an increasing number of electric vehicles in the region, with the hotel being able to provide EV charging points on site.

Overall, the conference demonstrated progress through targeted investment in resilient ecosystem restoration and reductions in disposable promotional materials. Future events could further improve their environmental performance by strengthening sustainable catering policies, avoiding gifts that present potential biosecurity risks, and improving the collection and reporting of environmental performance data, particularly in relation to water consumption and waste management.

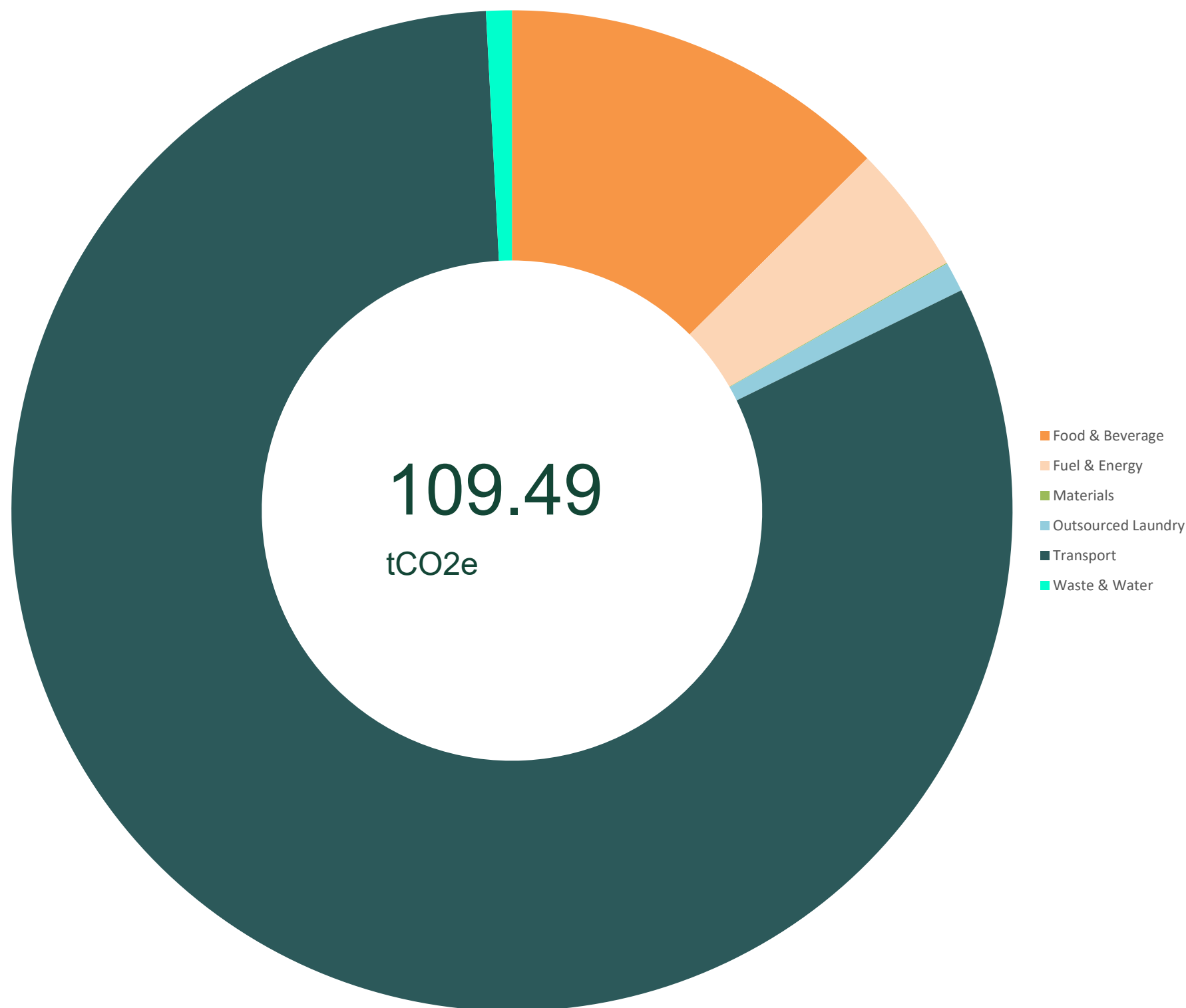
Results

ITT Conference 2026 Malaga





ITT Conference Total



Categories	Total Emissions (kg CO2e)	% Total Emissions
Food & Beverage	13,644.75	12.46%
Fuel & Energy	5,461.79	4.99%
Materials	29.93	0.03%
Outsourced Laundry	1,044.18	0.95%
Transport	88,410.41	80.75%
Waste & Water	901.3	0.82%
Grand Total	109,492.37	



ITT Conference Total – Emissions by Scope

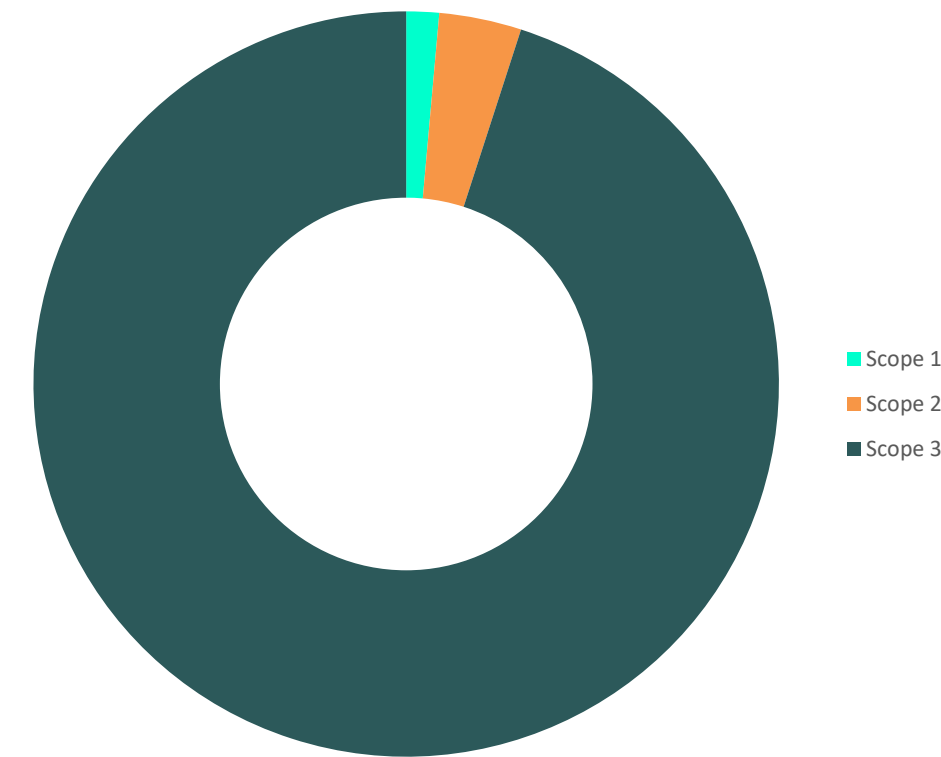
Emissions by Scope ITT

Categories	Total Emissions (kg CO2e)	% Total Emissions
Scope 3	109,492.37	100%
Grand Total	109,492.37	



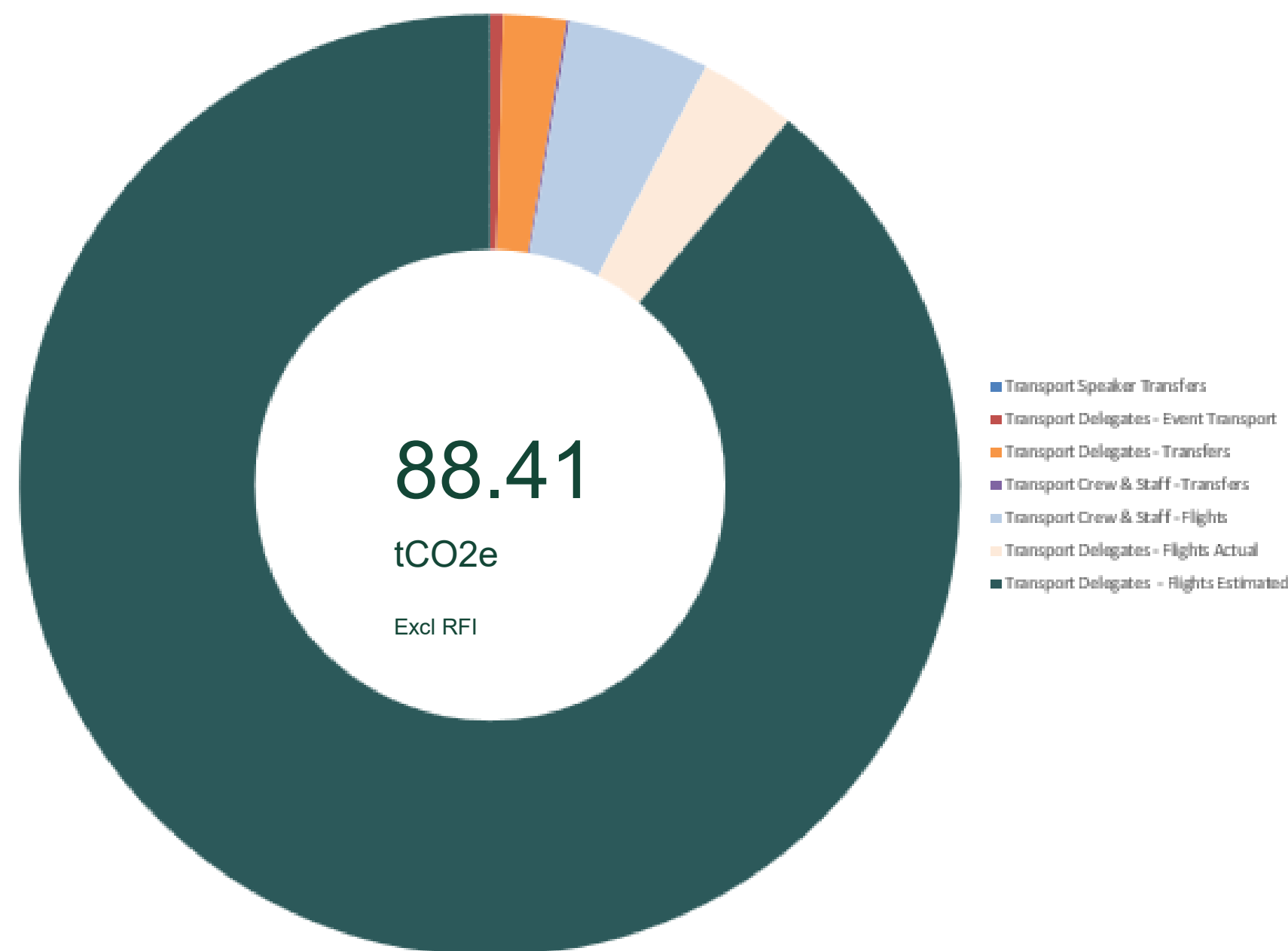
Emissions by Scope Hotel Higueron

Categories	Total Emissions (kg CO2e)	% Total Emissions
Scope 1	1,389.21	1.27%
Scope 2	2,993.50	2.73%
Scope 3	105,109.66	96.00%
Grand Total	109,492.37	





ITT Conference Transport

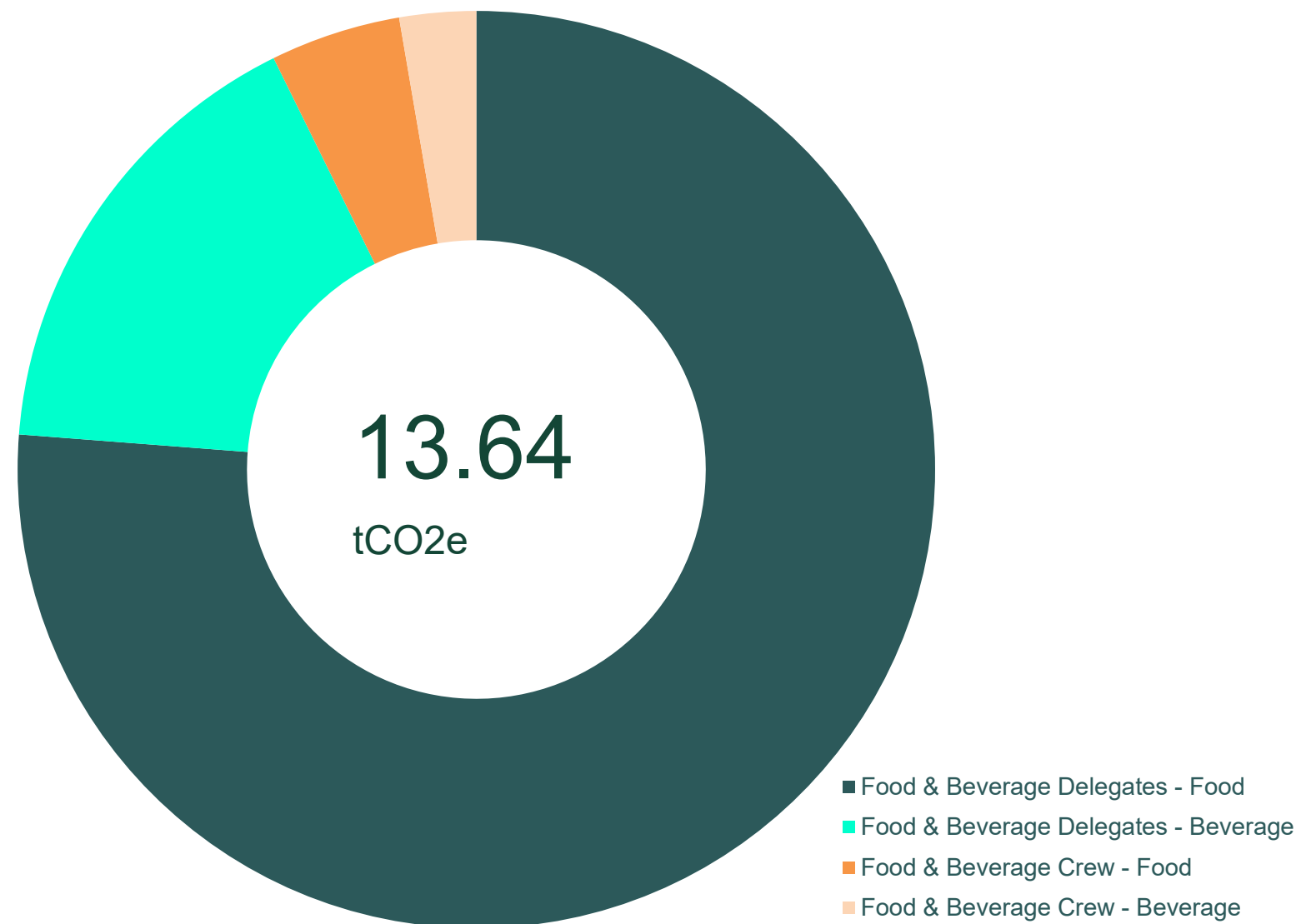


Transport Category	kgCO ₂ e
Delegate Transfers	1,917.40
Delegates Flights Actual	2,948.80
Delegates Flights Estimated	78,752.60
Dellar Davies Crew	2,903.20
Event – Delegate Transport	379.24
ITT Staff	1,411.60
Speaker Transfers	8.87
Staff/Crew Transfers	88.71
Plus Radiative Forcing All Flights	76,554.42

Transport & travel to, from and during the event accounted for 80.75% of all event emissions at 88.41 tCO₂e. This total excludes radiative forcing which, in line with best practice, must now be separated out from total emissions. Comparing like for like, transport emissions were 164.9 tCO₂e down 1% from the previous year of 165.750 tCO₂e. Adjusted to emissions per delegate, emissions reduced by 13% from the previous years' emissions intensity of 663 kgCO₂e / delegate to 578.6 kgCO₂e / delegate. Of this 81,701.4 kgCO₂e (92% of all transport emissions) came from delegate flights to and from the venue, highlighting the importance of actioning strategies to reduce delegate flights.



ITT Conference Food & Beverage



Meal Detail

Welcome Party Canapes	503.92
Welcome Party Drinks	727.74
Gala Dinner - Meat	2,056.22
Gala Dinner - Vegetarian	54.75
Gala Dinner - Drinks	597.78
Farewell Party Canapes	334.64
Farewell Party Drinks	519.81
VIP Lunch	208.56
VIP Drinks	142.95
Delegate Breakfasts	1,804.05
Delegate Lunches	5,437.8
Delegate Beverages	262.2
Crew Breakfasts	151.92
Crew Lunches	457.92
Crew Beverages	367.92

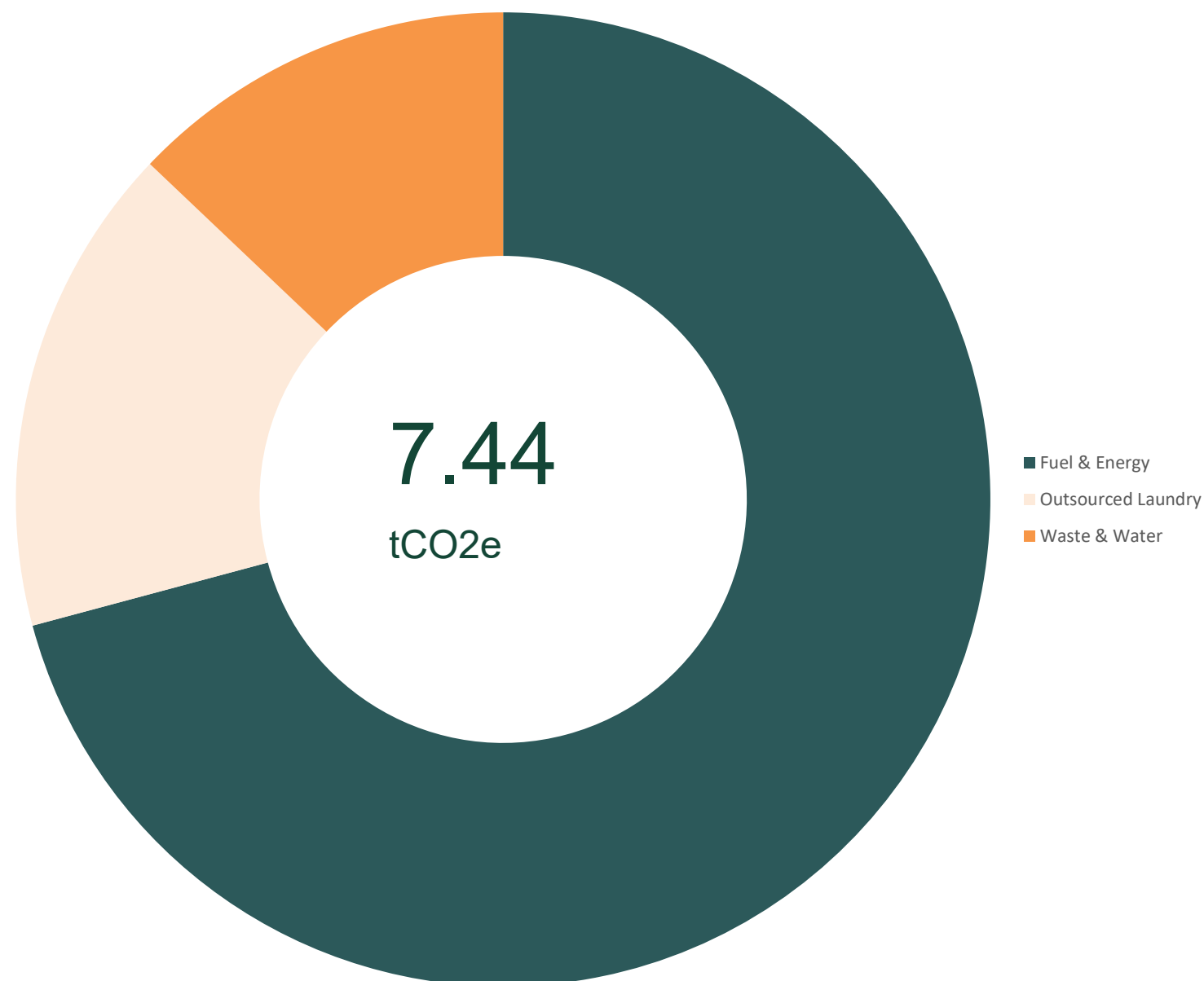
Food & Beverage	kgCO2e
Delegates - Food	10,399.95
Delegates - Beverage	2,250.48
Crew - Food	626.40
Crew - Beverage	367.92

Food and beverage emissions totaled 13.64 tCO2e, so were a significant emissions source (12.46%) for the event, which is very common. Diving into the emissions, in more detail, we see the meat menu for the gala dinner, was a high emissions source at 2.06 tCO2e. Additionally, estimated breakfasts and lunches for the delegated contributed significantly to overall emissions.

To estimate emissions, for Welcome Party, Gala Dinner, Farewell Party and VIP Dinner and drinks, menus were provided and so emissions were estimated using Agribalyse Emissions data for ingredients or closest meal match. For breakfasts, lunches and additional meals, JEM was used to provide estimate emissions for meals, using TerraVerde proprietary emissions estimates.



ITT Conference Hotel & Production



Category	Emissions (kgCO2e)	% of all emissions
Fuel & Energy	5,461.79	73.4%
Hotel - Fuels	1552.74	
Hotel - Electricity	3,909.05	
Materials	29.93	0.40%
Production - Materials	29.93	
Outsourced Laundry	1,044.18	14.04%
Waste & Water	901.3	12.12%
Grand Total	7,437.21	

Hotel and production emissions totaled 7.44 tCO₂e. Of this, fuel and energy consumed by the hotel accounted for 73.4% of emissions from this category. With a large proportion coming from the venue electricity consumption.

A new entrant to the scope of measurement for the conference, outsourced laundry was also included for measurement inline with HCMi measurement methodology. Emissions related to just venue, (fuel, energy, outsourced laundry, waste and water) accounted for 7.41 tCO₂e. Which was 25.99 kgCO₂e/PAX or approximately 8.66 kgCO₂e/PAX.night. The Spanish average emissions per room.night is 7.00 kgCO₂e.

ITT Conference Emissions Intensities



Year on Year Comparison	Emissions Intensity kgCO2e / delegate (250 - 285 Delegates)		% Change
	2025	2026	
Food & Beverage	40.64	47.86	18%
Fuel & Energy	9.72	19.16	97%
Materials	1.20	0.11	-91%
Outsourced Laundry	-	3.66	
Transport incl. RFI	663.00	578.60	-13%
Waste & Water	3.28	2.91	-11%
Grand Total Incl. RFI	717.84	656.01	-9%

Appendix

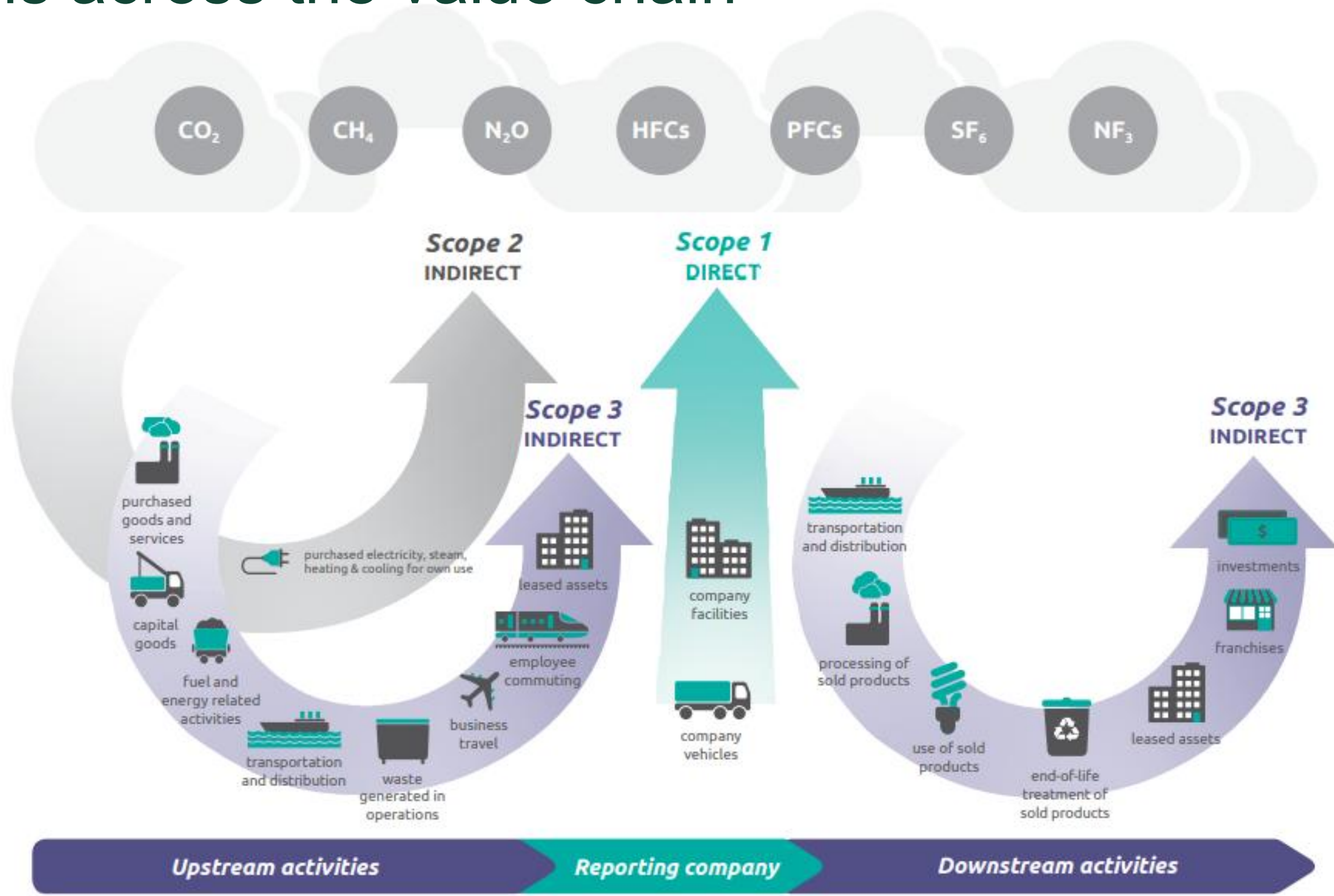


Appendix A. All emissions



Category	Sub-Category	Fuel Type	Unit	Input Quantity	Total Emissions (kg CO2e)
Fuel & Energy	Hotel - Fuels	Natural Gas	litres	900.00	1,552.74
Fuel & Energy	Hotel - Electricity	Standard Tariff	kWh	22,440.00	3,909.05
Transport	Delegates - Event Transport	Coach - Diesel	passenger.km	2,783.00	101.75
Transport	Delegates - Event Transport	Coach - Diesel	passenger.km	7,590.00	277.49
Transport	Speaker Transfers	Black Cab	passenger.km	34.80	8.87
Transport	Delegates - Transfers	Black Cab	passenger.km	7,522.15	1,917.40
Transport	Crew & Staff - Transfers	Black Cab	passenger.km	348.00	88.71
Transport	Crew & Staff – Flights (excl. RFI)	Air - Short Haul - Economy	passenger.km		2,903.20
Transport	Crew & Staff – Flights (excl. RFI)	Air - Short Haul - Economy	passenger.km		1,411.60
Transport	Delegates - Flights Actual (excl. RFI)	Air - Short Haul - Economy	passenger.km		2,948.80
Transport	Delegates - Flights Estimated (excl. RFI)	Air - Short Haul - Economy	passenger.km		78,752.60
Waste & Water	Hotel - Waste Disposal	Pater / Card - Landfill	kg	236.00	274.94
Waste & Water	Hotel - Waste Disposal	Waste - General Mixed - Landfill	kg	1,185.60	592.80
Waste & Water	Hotel - Water	Water Supply	m3	93.00	17.67
Waste & Water	Hotel - Water Treatment	Water Treatment	m3	93.00	15.90
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Food	Welcome Party Canapes		ALL PAX	503.92
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Beverage	Welcome Party Drinks		ALL PAX	727.74
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Food	Gala Dinner - Meat		ALL PAX	2,056.22
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Food	Gala Dinner - Vegetarian		ALL PAX	54.75
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Beverage	Gala Dinner - Drinks		ALL PAX	597.78
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Food	Farewell Party Canapes		ALL PAX	334.64
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Beverage	Farewell Party Drinks		ALL PAX	519.81
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Food	VIP Lunch		ALL PAX	208.56
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Beverage	VIP Drinks		ALL PAX	142.95
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Food	Delegate Breakfasts		ALL PAX	1,804.05
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Food	Delgate Lunches		ALL PAX	5,437.8
Food & Beverage	Delegates - Beverage	Delgate Beverages		ALL PAX	262.2
Food & Beverage	Crew - Food	Crew Breakfasts		ALL Crew/Staff	151.92
Food & Beverage	Crew - Food	Crew Lunches		ALL Crew/Staff	457.92
Food & Beverage	Crew - Food	Crew Dinner		ALL Crew/Staff	16.56
Food & Beverage	Crew - Beverage	Crew Beverages		ALL Crew/Staff	367.92
Materials	Production - Materials	Lanyards, name cards, flags etc		ALL PAX	29.93
Outsourced Laundry	Hotel - Outsourced Laundry	Outsourced Laundry	kg Laundry	3,480.60	1,044.18

Appendix B. Diagram overview of GHG Protocol scopes and emissions across the value chain



Source: Scope 3 Standard, Greenhouse Gas Protocol

*“Sustainable tourism should not be considered a special form of tourism,
rather all forms of tourism should strive to become more sustainable.”*

OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development)

TerraVerde work with: Events Professionals, Tour Operators, Hotels, OTAs, Transport Companies, Travel Management Companies (TMC), Venues & Visitor Attractions, Convention Bureaus, Destination Marketing Organisations (DMO), Destination Management Companies and Cruises

TerraVerde are members of: [GSTC](#) & Sustainability Partners of the [European Tourism Association](#) & [TTG Media](#)

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