FROM A CARBON FOOTPRINT BASELINE TO CLIMATE ACTION

CALCULATION OF OUR CLIMATE IMPACT

AND ITS IMPORTANCE TOWARDS CLIMATE ACTIONS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING.

Rebecca Lefevere, Sustainability Manager VUB

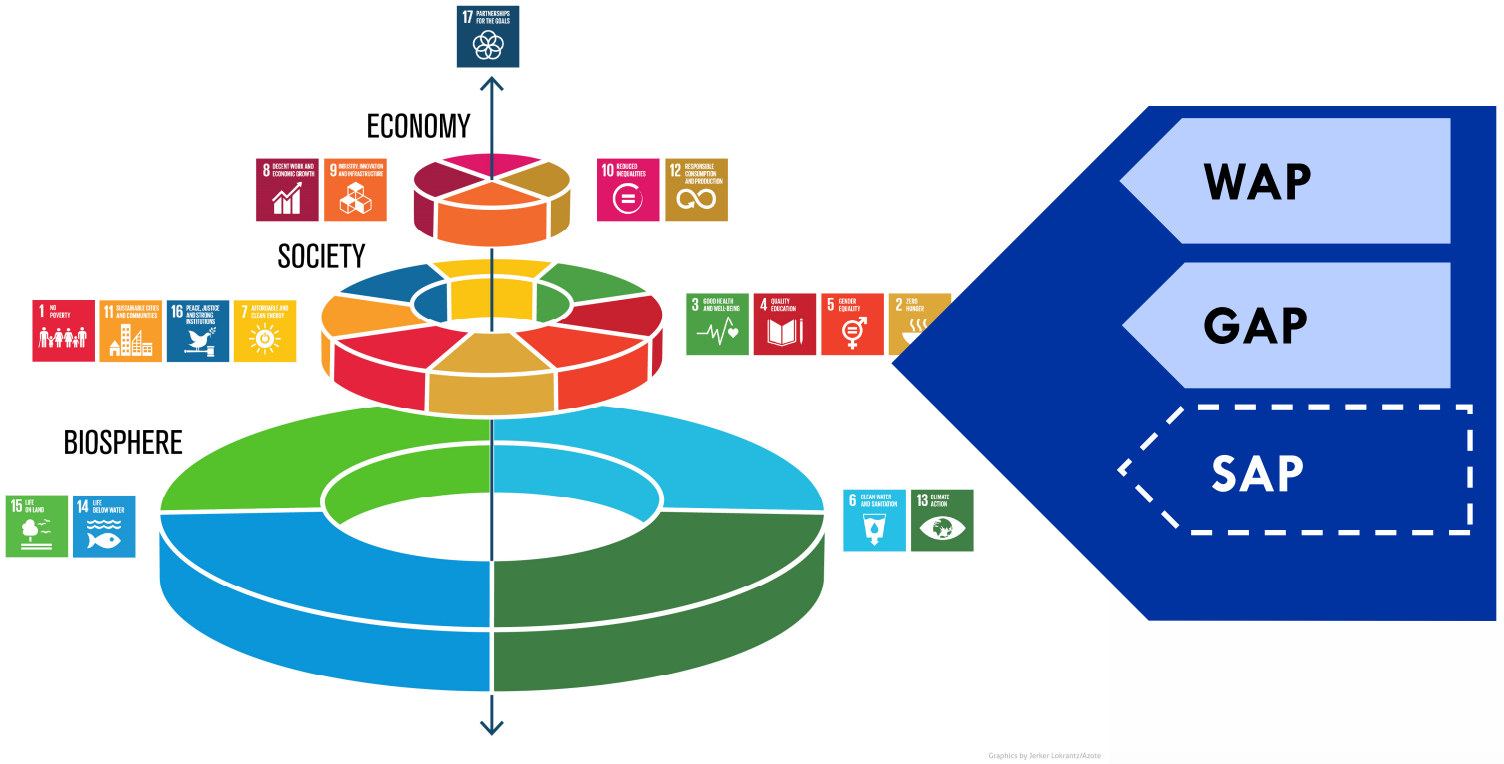
POLICY FRAMEWORK

AGENDA 2030 & SGD'S

Sustainability as part of

Strategic Plan of Rector 2020-2024

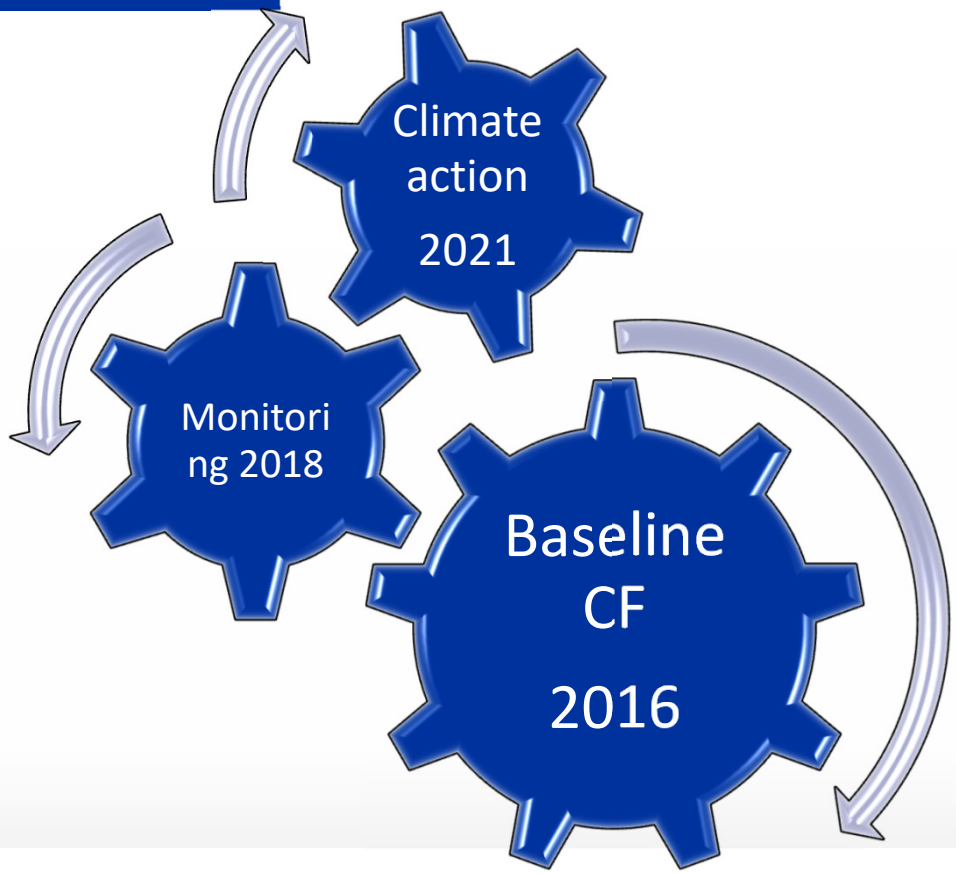
#The world needs you



Bron: Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University

OUR TIMELINE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

AFTER OUR BASELINE MASUREMENT



WHAT DID WE TAKE IN THE SCOPE OF OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?

WHAT CAN WE MEASURE? WHAT CAN WE INFLUENCE?

Main campuses

- Administration, research and Education
- Student housing owned by VUB
- Student restaurants owned by VUB and sporting facilities on Campus

Scope 1 & 2

- Direct and indirect energy use
- Cooling gasses

Scope 3

What's in our value chain?

SCOPE 3: WHAT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT?

OUT IMPACT CATEGORIES: WHAT CAN WE MEASURE? WHAT CAN WE INFLUENCE?

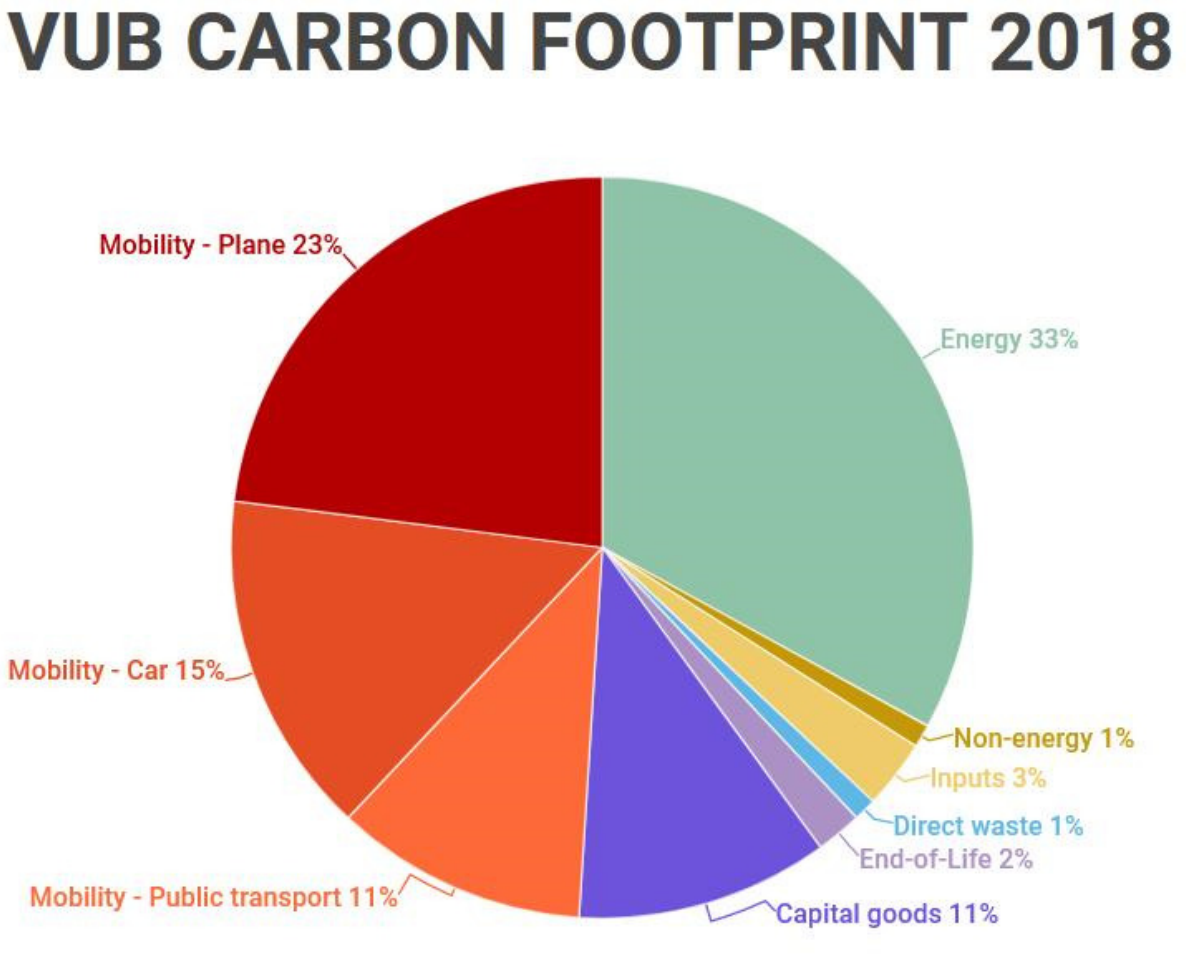
- Inputs (procument of metals, paper, glass, medical products, Stationary, food served in VUB restaurants…)
- Waste generated on campus (residual; PMC, paper, indrustrial, hazardous…),
- Waste due to student courses
- Mobility of students and staff (both commute and international exchange, business trips)
- Capital goods (construction, production and maintance of infrastructure of buildings, parkings, own fleet and ICT hardware

STATUS VUB

41.909 ton CO_2e

- 19000 students
- 3800 staff members

≈ 2.6 tons CO2e per student
≈ driving 170 million kilometres with a car
≈ total yearly carbon footprint of almost 2600 average people in Belgium (0,026% of the total Belgian carbon footprint)
≈ it requires 1,7 million trees to absorb this amount of CO_2 within one year



VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL

Full details on www.vub.be/duurzaamheid/carbon-footprint#nulmeting

CARBON FOOTPRINT VUB

CALCULATION: THE DATA ISSUE

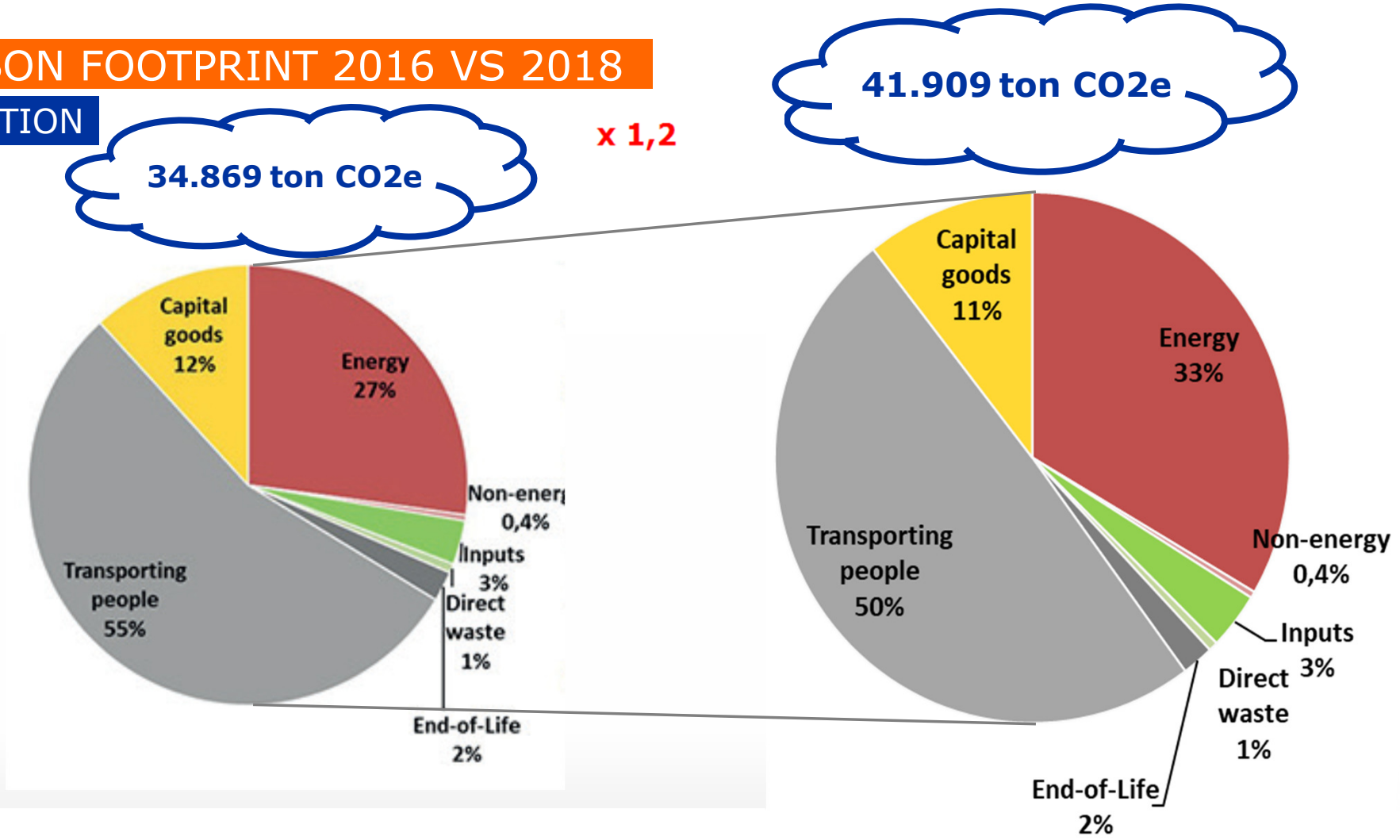
Footprint = quantity used x ton CO_2e per unit

Data management by VUB en external control by consultant

Protocol van Bilan Carbone (ADEME) According the GHG protocol

CARBON FOOTPRINT 2016 VS 2018

EVOLUTION



MOBILITY: COMMUTE

WHAT WAS THE TREND 2016-2018

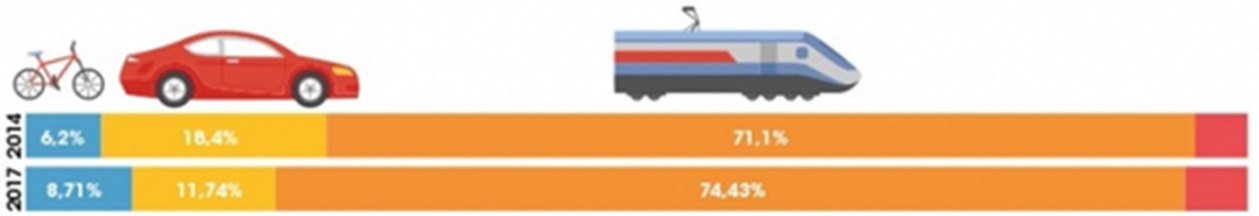
Key action to emissionreduction

Reduce #trips
- Blended learning
- Blended working
- A flexible commute budget
- Ambition of HR: up to 50% off-campus working
- 10% less km's= 1000 tons of emission reduction

 # km of commute ⇧
- A commuting community
- A trend to live or in Brussels but mainly in cities further away

% car ⇩

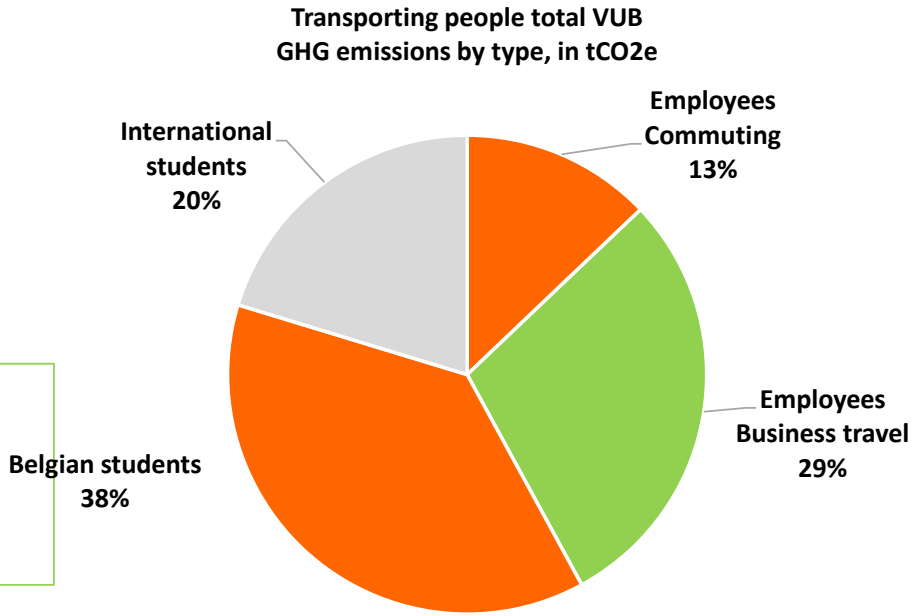
Modal split Etterbeek



Modal split Jette

BUSINESS TRAVEL STAFF

ACTIE!



Key Action to emissiereduction

ABC Travel Policy

2020: Central procurement of international travel→
Automatic use of our travel ABC

A. AVOID

The need for networking ('meetingness') means that videoconferencing will never replace all travel, but only a limited part and both will remain complementary

B. BOOK AN ALTERNATIVE

Travel by bus or train if travel time by train is <6h

C. COMPENSATE

Compulsory CO_2-contribution for flights

LESSONS LEARNED, QUESTIONS REMAINING

UNTIL NOW

- Powerful tool to broaden the scope of the community (beyond the central heating)
- Need to communicate transparant (it's an estimation!)
- It's not only about carbon and data
- It's also about quality of life on campus

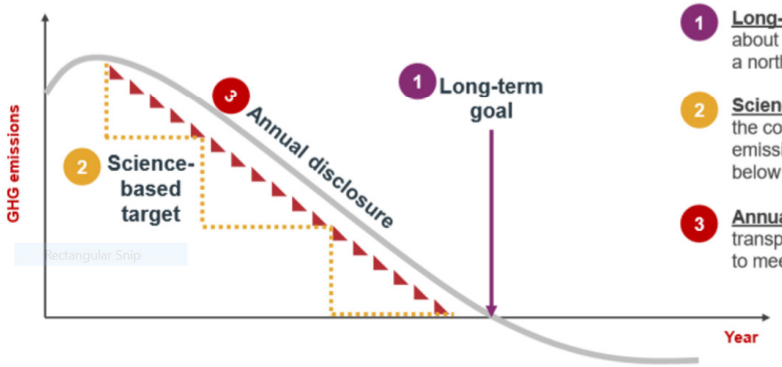
- Quid offsetting? Especially in Scope 1 and 2 (direct and indirect energy use) where we need to aim for 0 emissions

NEXT STEPS 2021

- Inventory of all actions planned in key categories energy and mobilty
- Calculation their emissions reductions by 2030
- See the whole picture projected to 2030 and check if we're on track to remain below 1,5-2°C
- Do we reach the EU ambitions ?
- If not

=>start the process inside the institution for additional efforts
additional actions: CO2 reduction/euro??

"GHG emissions reduction targets that are consistent with the level of decarbonization that, according to climate science, is required to keep global temperature increase within 1.5 to 2°C compared to pre-industria temperature levels"



1. **Long-term goal:** A net-zero long-term goal provides certainty about the direction that the company will follow and serves as a north-star for long-term strategic decisions;
2. **Science-based target:** Science-based targets ensures that the company is taking shorter-term action to reduce emissions at a pace that is consistent with keeping warming below 1.5°C / well-below 2°C;
3. **Annual disclosure:** Climate disclosure provides transparency about the progress that the company is making to meet its long-term and medium-term goals