



Amazon Rainforest, Brazil

TOWARDS A 1.5°C FUTURE

In 2020, Intrepid became the first global tour operator with verified science-based targets – starting the next phase of our ongoing carbon journey and providing clear targets to hold us accountable.

Intrepid has a long history on climate action - for the past 15 years we've been actively taking steps to understand more, increase awareness and take action in our own business. Intrepid has been carbon neutral since 2010.

But, at the start of 2020, we realised this was no longer enough. The pace of climate change requires every organisation to do more.

While Covid-19 poses a huge risk to the travel industry, the long-term risk of climate change will be far worse. The pandemic has forced most businesses, including ours, to respond to changed customer and investor expectations. We see the opportunity to align our Covid-19 recovery plans with our existing ambitions for a low carbon economy.

Action on climate change and sustainability has never been more urgent.

2020 was the hottest year on record (tied with 2016) and lockdowns did not reduce global emissions by meaningful amounts. The pandemic also increased the use of single-use plastics (SUP), and raised new risks for wildlife conservation and animal welfare.

Intrepid knows that climate action isn't only good for the planet. It is good for business.

The sooner businesses start working on structural changes and an emissions trajectory in line with a 1.5°C world, the more beneficial the changes to the business. Ambitious targets and action do not hinder business; science-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets help drive innovation and real operational emission reductions.

WE DECLARED A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

In January 2020, Intrepid declared a climate emergency with [Tourism Declares](#), a global collective of tourism businesses, organisations and individuals who have pledged urgent action on climate change.

As of March 2021, 222 travel organisations, companies and professionals have declared a climate emergency and are coming together to find solutions.

SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS

The [Business Ambition for 1.5°C](#) campaign is an urgent call-to-action for companies to set emissions reduction targets in line with a 1.5°C future. It is backed by a global coalition of UN leaders, business organisations and NGOs.

In 2020, Intrepid became the first global tour operator with verifiable science-based targets through the [Science Based Targets initiative \(SBTi\)](#). This independently assesses corporate emissions reduction targets in line with what climate scientists say is needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Intrepid will transform its business for a low-carbon future by reducing emissions across its operations and trips.

Intrepid Travel commits to reduce absolute scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions 71 per cent by 2035 from a 2018 base year. Intrepid Travel also commits to reduce scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions from its offices by 34 per cent per full-time employee equivalent, and from its trips by 56 per cent per passenger day over the same period.

The targets covering greenhouse gas emissions from company operations (scopes 1 and 2) are consistent with reductions required to keep warming to 1.5°C.



SCOPE 1 + 2

71%

Reduction by 2035
Base year 2018

SCOPE 3

34%

OFFICE
Reduction by 2035
Base year 2018

56%

TRIP
Reduction by 2035
Base year 2018

CLIMATE COMMITMENT PLAN

Our climate emergency is underpinned by a seven-point commitment plan:

In 2020, we added another strand to our plan to address the intersection of climate change and social justice.

For example, Intrepid is proud to work with projects that offer significant social and environmental benefits to the community – like the Savannah Burning project in Arnhem Land, in the Northern Territory. This area is prone to extreme, devastating bushfires and these projects are owned exclusively by Aboriginal people with custodial responsibility for those parts of Arnhem Land under active bushfire management.

Local rangers conduct controlled burns early in the dry season to reduce fuel on the ground and establish natural firebreaks, preventing bigger, hotter and uncontrolled wildfires later in the season. The projects provide employment and training opportunities for local rangers while supporting Aboriginal people in returning to, remaining on and managing their country. Communities are supported in the preservation and transfer of knowledge, the maintenance of Aboriginal languages and the wellbeing of traditional custodians.





HELPING OUR CUSTOMERS OFFSET THEIR EMISSIONS

Intrepid launched an initiative with the carbon offsetting subscription service Ecologi (formerly known as Offset Earth) in 2020. This allows customers to offset their personal emissions on a monthly basis through Gold Standard-certified carbon credits and tree planting.

The starting monthly subscription rate – less than \$10 per month – allows users to plant trees to help Intrepid get to our goal of one million trees.

As a result of Intrepid's partnership with Ecologi, trees are planted in Kenya's Kijabe Forest by The Intrepid Foundation's Eden Reforestation Project partner.

OCEAN PANEL TOURISM ACTION COALITION WORKING GROUP

Intrepid is part of the Ocean Panel's Advisory Network, which comprises more than 135 private sector, non-governmental organisations and intergovernmental organisations across 35 countries.

[The Ocean Panel](#) is an initiative of 14 serving world leaders, established in September 2018. The Ocean Panel works with government, business, financial institutions, the science community and civil society to catalyse and scale solutions across policy, governance, technology and finance, and develop a new ocean action agenda for transitioning to a sustainable ocean economy.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

The pandemic has increased the use of SUPs and Intrepid recognises the environmental risk this poses to the world's marine and animal wildlife, as well as the destinations we visit. Intrepid is exploring how we can take meaningful action on this issue.

The WTTC jointly with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) produced a draft of a report that aims to map SUP products and identifies the strategic hotspots that generate the major leakages into the environment along the tourism value chain globally. WTTC invited Intrepid to take part in a member consultation in 2020 to provide feedback and to share experiences.

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

Intrepid recognises that sustainability can only be realised through cooperation and partnership. We work with a wide range of organisations in order to influence discussions and change.

Our chairman and co-founder Darrell Wade is Vice Chair of Sustainability at the [World Travel and Tourism Council \(WTTC\)](#).

The WTTC Sustainability Committee was formed in 2020 to support the WTTC management team in the development of a sustainability strategy for the sector and assisting the WTTC management team in executing the strategy. The WTTC Sustainability Taskforce is made up of sustainability executives from WTTC members, including Intrepid's Dr Susanne Etti, Environmental Impact Specialist. The role of this taskforce is to provide support and guidance to WTTC and the WTTC Sustainability Committee, working in collaboration as needed with the Sustainability Experts Group.

Intrepid is also on the steering committee of the AU/NZ [B Corp Climate Collective \(BCCC\)](#), a group of Certified B Corps working together to take action on the climate emergency. The group works to identify concrete steps to accelerate climate mitigation, including:

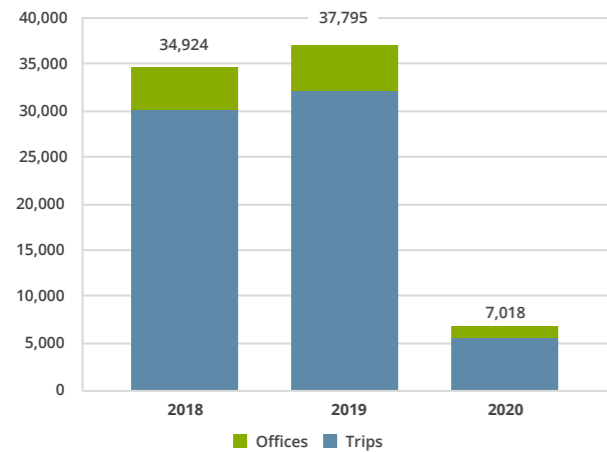
- Government advocacy
- Consumer campaigns
- Enabling businesses to reduce emissions

Intrepid co-leads the business climate action group with our environmental consultancy partner, Ndevr.

The BCCC supported the following initiatives in 2020:

- WWF's renewable recovery campaign, which demands that Australia's government transitions to renewable energy in the Covid-19 recovery
- Submission Climate Change Bill 2020 Zali Steggal's Climate Act (November 2019)
- 27 B Corps undersigned a joint submission to the Senate's inquiry into the 2020 bushfire season.

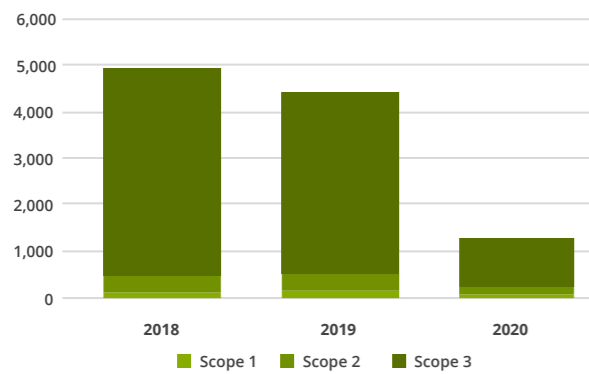
Total emissions for trips and offices in tCO₂-e for 2018-2020



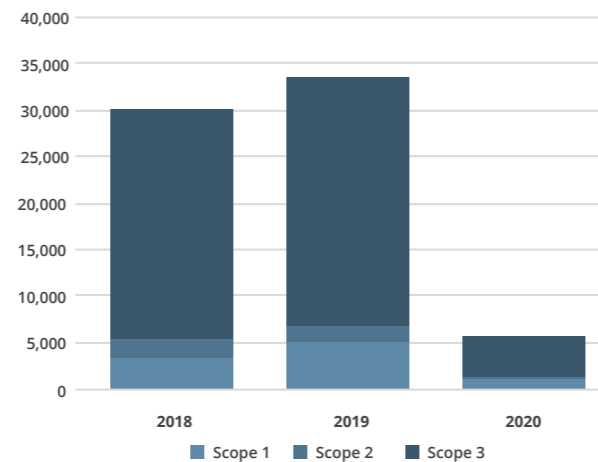
Greenhouse gas emissions intensity, tCO₂-e/-FTE

2018	4.90
2019	4.31
2020	3.09

Total emissions by scope for offices in tCO₂-e for 2018-2020



Total emissions by scope for trips in tCO₂-e for 2018-2020



We have used the methodology as per [Climate Active Carbon Neutrality](#) standard. Intrepid's GHG emissions have been calculated in accordance with the methodology of the [GHG Protocol's Corporate Standard](#) and in accordance with the [Australian Government's Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard](#).

In 2020, we assessed 44 offices, which included both newly established, virtual offices and recently closed offices (temporary and permanent closures).

Total office-based greenhouse gas emissions are normalised by average full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. Trip-based emissions are normalised by passenger days travelled.

Scope 1 includes direct emissions from operations we own or control, including Intrepid owned vehicles and fuel consumption.

Scope 2 includes indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy.

Scope 3 includes indirect emissions (e.g. business travel and electricity used in shared spaces) from our value chain.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been, and continues to be, significant on the travel and tourism industry, including Intrepid. Due to office closures (either temporarily or in some cases permanently), reduced workforces, global operations and international travel halted, environmental data has been impacted, with utilities usage i.e. energy consumption from

corporate buildings decreasing and in some case it has become harder to collect reliable data.

Impact of Covid-19 on Intrepid Travel's greenhouse gas reporting:

Intrepid staff only worked in Intrepid offices from January to March 2020. From April onwards, all staff worked from home. Hence we were only able to collect office data for office work for Jan, Feb and Mar 2020 (Q1 CY20). For all office locations except for Australia, we have modelled work from home emissions using collected emissions data from office operations in Q1 CY20 and apportioned this to the average number of FTE present in Q1 CY20 by each office location. Then, using the amount of emissions per FTE from Q1 CY20, we extrapolated this out across 2020 (using FTE numbers from April onwards) to approximate the amount of emissions from Intrepid staff working from home. This projection does not include emissions from flights, staff commuting or company fleet as none of these emissions activities occurred from April 2020 onwards. For Australian based offices, work from home emissions was determined using the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard WFH Emissions Calculator 2020.

FTE intensity has dropped in CY20 due to a reduction in the number of Intrepid full time staff and due to a change in the business-as-usual office emissions profile, due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. From April 2020 onwards, office-related emissions due to business travel (business flights and accommodation) and employee commuting to and from Intrepid offices, were non-existent. The impacts of office closures, a

reduction in Intrepid staff numbers and restricted business activities are reflected in the lower CY20 FTE emissions intensity."

All essential business travel has been stopped from 16 March 2020, significantly cutting a major environmental impact area for Intrepid.

We included for Melbourne all business travel before 16 March; flight dates from 17 March assumed to be vouchers. These flights will be accounted for in CY2021.

Employee commuting emissions for CY20 were modelled based on CY19 results. Since Intrepid staff only worked in Intrepid offices for Jan, Feb and Mar 2020 (Q1 CY20), or a quarter of the year, one quarter of CY19 employee commuting emissions was taken to represent Q1 CY20. It is assumed that Intrepid staff held the same employee commuting patterns in CY19 as they did in Q1 CY20.

We have seen an acceleration of video conferencing technology across the business and transition to digital working with companywide uptake of collaborative platforms (Microsoft Teams). This has led to a reduced need for printing and note books, translating in a reduction in paper. In addition we did not print our Integrated Report 2019 and customers brochures, which led to a reduction in print related emissions.

Improvements in data accuracy: We have updated the CY2019 carbon footprint to 37,795 tonnes of carbon emissions offset in CY2019 as it is now includes the trip emissions from Urban Adventures 1,249,21 tCO₂.

OUTLOOK

Intrepid will take action in 2021 to ensure it continues to work towards its approved science-based targets. It will focus on its transition to 100% renewable energy in offices by 2025. We've been on this path since 2005 and the next 15 years will be a critical part of our ongoing climate journey.

With our product, we are looking for opportunities to reduce trips' carbon footprint, including removing

non-essential flights and increasing the number of accommodation suppliers using renewable energy sources.

Our advocacy will continue. We will create open-source guides to support other organisations to measure their emissions and to help other tour operators set science-based targets. We will remain an active member of Tourism Declares, focusing in 2021 in particular on creating a Climate Action Blueprint for tour operators.

CASE STUDY



10-STEP QUICK-START GUIDE TO DECARBONISE YOUR TRAVEL BUSINESS

Intrepid recognised that while the global pause on travel is devastating for tourism operators, it also provides an opportunity for the industry to rebuild more responsibly. We [created and published tools and resources](#), and shared information that is typically proprietary to help others on their sustainability journeys.

- Authored by Dr Susanne Etti, Environmental Impact Specialist
- Provides straightforward steps to develop a carbon management strategy
- Includes real examples
- More than 180 businesses have downloaded the tool

The guide facilitated numerous follow up conversations with Dr Susanne Etti and other businesses

The guide's launch was accompanied by a webinar - [Rebuilding Responsibly: How and Why to Decarbonise The Travel Industry](#) - in collaboration with the Adventure Travel Trade Association, the Travel Foundation, CREST, Amnesty International and Atlantean.

As part of the One Planet Responsible Recovery Initiative, the [United Nations World Tourism Organisation](#) published an article about Intrepid's guide. The article highlighted how two different, competing tour operator businesses had implemented the steps in their own businesses. This followed Dr Susanne Etti meeting with each of these two travel businesses.