

International Post Corporation (IPC)

ACKNOWLEDGE
 PRIORITISE
 SET STRATEGY & GOALS
 TRACK

GHG EMISSIONS



Background on IPC

IPC is a cooperative association of 24 national postal services that are primarily based in Europe, Asia Pacific, and North America. It was founded in 1989 and is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. It provides its members with operational and IT-based services, manages incentive-based payments between its members, and undertakes wider initiatives that help its members meet challenging issues. It employs 63 people and its activities impact 80% of all global postal volumes and the jobs of 2.2 million people who are employed by its members globally.

How did IPC come to start thinking about context?

In early 2008, IPC launched the Environmental Measurement and Monitoring System (EMMS) program aimed at creating a collaborative sector-wide platform that would work towards mitigating the postal sector's impacts on climate change¹. The EMMS program was initiated in response to its members' concerns about the postal sector's contribution to global GHG emissions¹. The tools associated with the EMMS program measure the Carbon Management Proficiency (CMP) of its members across 10 areas, including measurement and verification, disclosure and reporting, and value chain management². By late 2008, the EMMS program supported the development of a member-wide absolute GHG emissions reduction goal by 2020³.

¹ International Post Corporation (2016). Sustainability Report 2016. Accessed at: https://www.ipc.be/~media/documents/public/sustainability/reports/ipc_sustainability_2016.pdf

² Parcel Industry (2010). Postal First Service Industry to Commit to CO2 Reductions. Accessed at: <http://parcelindustry.com/article-1969-Postal-First-Services-Industry-to-Commit-to-CO2-Reductions.html>

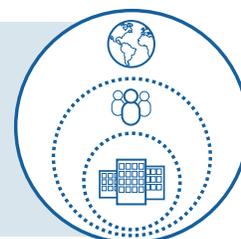
³ Science-Based Targets (2016). Case Study: International Postal Corporation. Accessed at: <http://sciencebasedtargets.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Science-Based-Targets-Case-study-IPC.pdf>

By 2013, the IPC members involved in the EMMS program had almost reached the 2020 goal and were beginning to explore how they could expand the target to include scope 3 emissions that were being generated by their value chains³. The EMMS program met its 2020 goal a year later in 2014, managing to achieve an absolute GHG emissions reductions of 20.6% across members' operations³. Later that year, the EMMS program introduced a revised GHG emissions goal (its current GHG emissions goal), which included scope 3 emissions³. IPC decided to submit this new GHG emissions goal to the [Science-Based Targets](#) initiative for verification, and in early 2016 the goal was determined to be consistent with the "science-based" approach set out by the Science-Based Targets initiative¹.

What does context look like at IPC?

1 ACKNOWLEDGE the need to operate within global, regional, and/or local socio-ecological thresholds.

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GHG emissions: IPC believes that the sharing of knowledge between its members can more effectively support reductions in the cumulative impacts on the ecological issue of climate change arising from the sector's GHG emissions⁴. It is IPC's ambition to support its members in integrating climate change and sustainability practices into the postal sector's long-term strategies and therefore better aligning the sector with the global objectives set out through the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs)¹. Through the EMMS program, the postal sector is committing to increase carbon efficiency while achieving relative carbon reductions across all aspects of its business activities and those of its value chain¹. Former CEO and President of IPC, Michael Zapf, commented that "climate change is a truly global issue and the EMMS is an example of how an industry can come together and work towards the common goal of reducing its impact on the environment⁵." By providing its members with access to the EMMS program, IPC commits to support its members in their engagement with their respective value chains¹.

Other thresholds: IPC acknowledges the importance of other ecological issues including fuel and electricity consumption but does not yet discuss them with reference to thresholds.

⁴ International Post Corporation (n.d.). About Us: Mission. Accessed at: https://www.ipc.be/en/aboutipc/mission/mission_overview

⁵ Postal Technology International (n.d.). IPC members approach 2020 carbon emissions goal. Accessed at: <http://www.postaltechnologyinternational.com/news.php?NewsID=54116>

2 Transparently understand and **PRIORITISE** a set of focus areas in relation to key socio-ecological trends at the global, regional, and/or local level.

GHG EMISSIONS

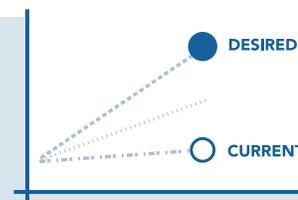


IPC has mapped out the postal value chain against the SDGs to support its members in prioritising areas for action. This helps IPC members to better understand how their business activities can impact specific SDGs and what macro socio-ecological issues they should be seeking to focus on or influence¹. IPC does not transparently outline how it has prioritised its key ecological issues; however, being a CEO-driven organisation, with its Board consisting of 11 CEOs representing its 24 members, it is likely that its prioritisation is a result of feedback and expectations raised by its Board³.

GHG emissions: IPC members recognise that more action is needed to decrease the GHG emissions arising from their value chains given increasing parcel volumes attributed to the rise of e-commerce, which has led to a greater need to outsource transportation services¹. In recognition of this trend, the IPC Board asked the EMMS program to incorporate scope 3 emissions into the organisation's GHG emissions goal³.

3 SET STRATEGY AND GOALS by transparently articulating the current performance gap and what portion of this gap the business will address.

GHG EMISSIONS



GHG emissions: IPC has committed to support its members in reducing their GHG emissions (Scope 1, 2, and 3) by 20% (per letter and parcel delivery) by 2025 from a 2013 baseline³. IPC has also recommended to its members that they should consider submitting individual GHG emissions goals to the Science-Based Targets initiative to be assessed using the initiative's criteria³. To develop its contextual GHG emissions goal, IPC worked in collaboration with [Ecofys](#) to apply the [Sectoral Decarbonisation Approach](#) to the members' operational data from 2014^{3, 6}. While IPC does briefly outline how it developed its contextual goal, it has not yet explained the assumptions that it used during the development process. This contextual goal, as mentioned, covers the emissions of IPC members' value chains, and the actions used by members to influence their value chains will be captured and shared through the EMMS system³.

Other thresholds: IPC has not yet set contextual goals in relation to any other thresholds.

⁶ Ecofys (n.d.). Projects: Science-Based Targets for International Post Corporation. Accessed at: <http://www.ecofys.com/en/projects/science-based-targets-for-international-post-corporation-ipc/>

4 Transparently TRACK performance against realistic trajectory targets.

GHG EMISSIONS



GHG emissions: IPC has a track record of reporting annually on the GHG emission reductions achieved by its members since 2008¹. The organisation has not yet used this reporting to set realistic trajectory targets that could be used to monitor its progress towards achieving its contextual goal¹. IPC uses the CMP scores from its members to monitor how many of the members have policies or programs in place that explain how they intend to influence their respective value chains to take actions that reduce GHG emissions¹. To demonstrate the actions members are taking to reduce GHG emissions, IPC publishes a series of “Best Practice Cases” within its annual sustainability reports³. As described in the previous step, IPC is encouraging its members to submit individual GHG emissions goals to the Science-Based Targets initiative but has yet to set a metric to measure how its members are responding.

Other thresholds: IPC reports its performance against other socio-ecological issues including fuel and electricity consumption but does not yet report its progress in relation to their associated thresholds.

What is the road ahead for context at IPC?

Since its introduction in 2008, the EMMS program has allowed the members of IPC to greatly improve their respective GHG emission reduction programs³. Through the continued publication of its annual “Best Practice Cases”, IPC is confident that its members can continue to identify and share opportunities that support wider efforts to reduce the postal sector’s GHG emissions and to reduce the combined impact the postal sector has on climate change³.