

Carbon Footprint 2009

GAIA OPERATES AS A CARBON NEUTRAL COMPANY

Background information

Gaia has used five offices, that is 344 m2 of office area, during 2009: Helsinki, Turku, Kouvola, Geneva (Switzerland) and Chengdu (China, until April 2009). All Gaia's offices are located in big office buildings. In Helsinki, the electricity consumption data is measured directly by the electricity provider, elsewhere consumption has been estimated.

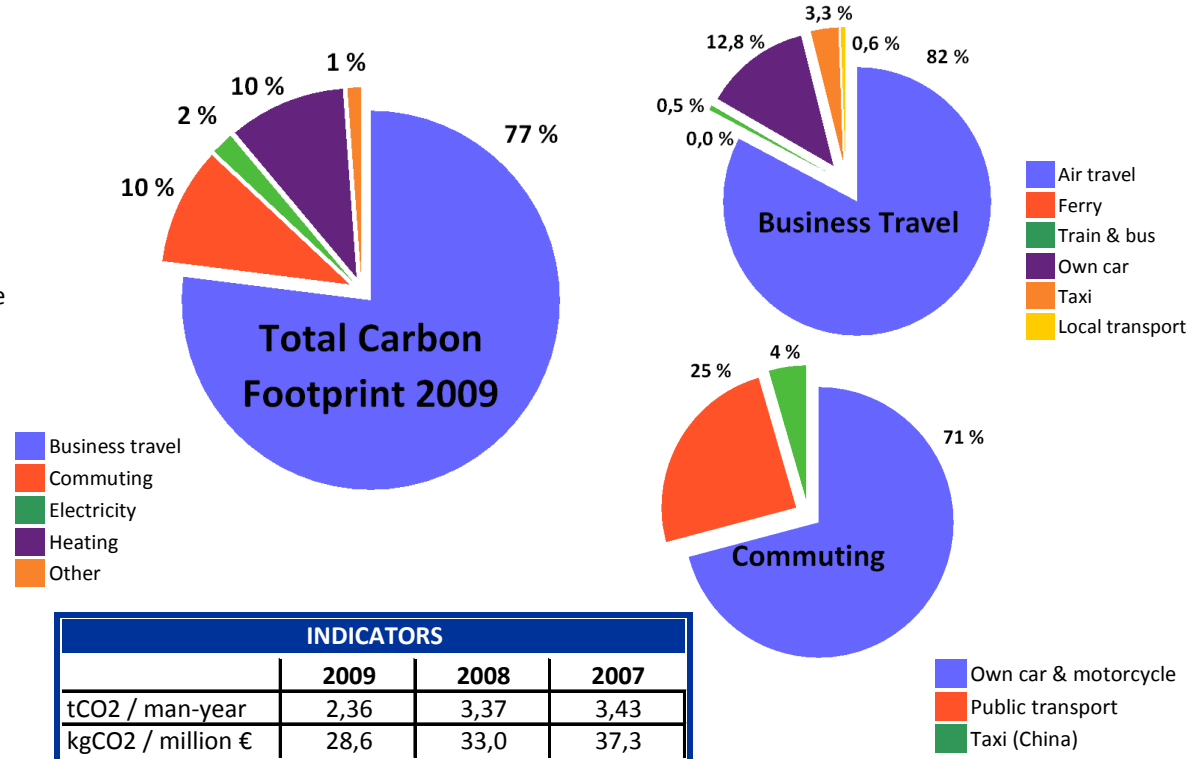
Gaia employed 22 full-time employees during 2009.

Carbon footprint calculation

In 2009, Gaia's total CO₂ emissions decreased by 34,6% mainly due to decreased air travel. Both indicators, carbon footprint per man-year and per value added, decreased.

Gaia's carbon footprint calculation has become more accurate due to better energy consumption data available and new research results on emission factors. Also 2007–2008 carbon footprints have been updated using more accurate emission data available.

Emission factors are from GHG Protocol, VTT, VR, HSY, Pöyry, WWF and local energy companies. Waste is estimated using average figures in Helsinki metropolitan area.



	2009		2008		2007	
	tnCO ₂	% of total	tnCO ₂	% of total	tnCO ₂	% of total
Electricity	1,04	1,9 %	1,17	1,5 %	2,36	3,8 %
Heating	4,96	10,2 %	5,17	10,2 %	5,13	10,2 %
Business travel	40,12	76,5 %	64,44	76,5 %	44,61	76,5 %
Commuting	5,28	6,2 %	5,24	6,2 %	6,82	6,2 %
Other (estimates)	2,37	4,4 %	3,74	4,4 %	2,84	4,4 %
- Waste (174 kg/person/year)	1,97		2,49		1,89	
- Paper	0,40		1,21		0,92	
- Mail sent	0,02					
- Wastewater (20 l/person/day)	0,04		0,04		0,03	
Avoided emissions from recycled waste (bio, paper, cardboard)	- 1,73					
Total	52,02		79,77		61,76	
Margin of error	6,0 %					

Mitigation: Efforts to reduce our footprint

- As we travel for business we favour public transport if it is reasonable considering time limitations.
- International travel and traveling between our offices is minimised whenever possible. Instead, electronic communication media is used when it is sufficient for the communication needs.
- We practice sustainable development by: minimizing the consumption of hot water and electricity (switch off and un-plug electronic devices when not in use); preferring electronic communication and decreasing the use of paper, considering the environmental impact of product life cycle as well as waste recycling; avoiding unnecessary chemicals; preferring organic and fair trade food products.

Offsetting our unavoidable emissions

We offset the greenhouse gas emissions of our operations annually through a credible offset provider in climate mitigation projects that promote sustainable development and clean energy. Our emissions in 2009 were offset through investment in a wind power project in Turkey (Gold Standard).