



La Biennale di Venezia

Arte
Architettura
Cinema
Danza
Musica
Teatro
Archivio Storico

2024

**ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY
– CARBON
NEUTRALITY
REPORT**

Table of Contents

La Biennale di Venezia’s commitment	3
The journey to carbon neutrality	3
Actions taken to limit our environmental impact	4
Carbon footprint reporting	7
Calculation methodology	7
Exhibitions and festivals results	8
The offsetting projects	13

La Biennale di Venezia's commitment

THE JOURNEY TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

Since 2021, La Biennale di Venezia has made a deliberate decision to publicly disclose the environmental impact of its events, quantified in terms of their carbon footprint, and is actively committed to fighting climate change by promoting a more sustainable approach to the planning and execution of its events.

The 78th Venice International Film Festival, held in 2021, became the first Biennale di Venezia event to be certified as achieving a zero carbon impact (carbon neutral), and was the first event in its field to be recognized worldwide for having achieved this result.

Based on the analysis of their impact, our objective is to achieve carbon neutrality by measuring, reducing, and offsetting the emissions associated with its Exhibitions and Festivals.

The entire process we have followed is based on the internationally recognised standard PAS2060 set by the British Standard Institute and is verified independently by a third-party certification body (RINA).

In 2024, this result was achieved for the following events:

- 60th International Art Exhibition
- 52nd International Theatre Festival
- 18th International Festival of Contemporary Dance
- 81st Venice International Film Festival
- 68th International Festival of Contemporary Music

ACTIONS TAKEN TO LIMIT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

To put its commitment into action, La Biennale di Venezia has structured a plan of actions aimed at reducing the emissions associated with its events, to work in tandem with its carbon offsetting operation. The commitment therefore involves decarbonisation actions and awareness-raising activities targeting the general public, the visitors and the suppliers, whose contribution is key to achieving concrete and lasting results.

In particular, as required by the GHG (Greenhouse Gas) Protocol for greenhouse gas accounting, La Biennale has implemented actions to manage:

- “scope 1” direct emissions under the control of La Biennale which can act to directly affect decarbonisation;
- “scope 2” indirect emissions from the purchase of energy, and electrical power in particular;
- “scope 3” indirect emissions that depend on other bodies but are connected to the activities of La Biennale, and involve transport, travel, hospitality and other services that are necessary for the events organized by La Biennale to take place.

Clean Energy

The venues of the Arsenale, Giardini, the Ca’ Giustinian offices, and the Lido for the temporary installations during the Venice Film Festival, are powered exclusively by electricity from renewable sources. This structural change has resulted in a reduction of emissions equivalent to around 2,378.15 tonnes of CO₂, based on a consumption of approximately 4,351.839 kWh¹.

Materials and Logistics for the Installations

Within this area, the actions that have been implemented are guided by the principles of the circular economy. More specifically, during the installation of the International Art Exhibition, the project involved the reuse of 2,910 kg of glass reclaimed from the installation of the Glass Easel structures which has led to a savings of around 4.086 tonnes of CO₂ and the reuse of 470 kg of wood structures leading to a savings of 0.127 tonnes of CO₂.

The recovery and recycling of materials make it possible to prevent the emissions that would be generated by the respective supply chains to produce the same quantity of material from virgin resources.

The handling of installations and equipment within the event venues is carried out using electric forklifts, eliminating the emissions associated with diesel fuel usage. The boats used for water-borne transport are all equipped with EURO6 engines.

Food and Catering Services

As part of the catering service tender, prospective suppliers were asked to expand their vegan and vegetarian options. These food choices use raw ingredients that have a lower environmental impact compared to those of other supply chains.

The culinary offerings, available at all event venues, have been widely appreciated by the public that consumed them.

1 The emission factor applied is the ISPRA national mix

Furthermore, the plates, cutlery, and disposable glasses provided to users were made from compostable materials, thereby eliminating the generation of plastic waste.

The supplier responsible for food services at the Exhibition venues replaced plastic water bottles with Tetra Pak water packages bearing the Biennale logo. This action contributed to reducing the production and circulation of plastic.

Dematerialisation and Use of Environmentally Friendly Materials

The most effective way to reduce the emissions related to the use of materials in manufactured goods and services is to forego them entirely. In this regard, we have paid special attention to reducing the use of paper materials.

To this end, La Biennale di Venezia has introduced the following measures:

- it has replaced paper tickets with digital versions, and visitors are encouraged to avoid printing them;
- press kits and paper folders have been phased out;
- the production of promotional materials (programmes, postcards, and short guides) has been reduced, along with the consumption of paper for office work, especially in the procurement processes.

La Biennale di Venezia is committed to shifting its merchandising towards products made from environmentally friendly materials:

- La Biennale's institutional tote bags (about 10,320 pieces) and those distributed during the 81st Venice International Film Festival (approximately 3,200 pieces) were made of fabric produced from recycled plastic bottles (15 x 500 ml bottles for each bag), for a total of over 5,070 kg of recycled plastic²;
- the tote bags distributed during the DMT festivals were made from organic cotton, certified with ecolabel fair trade standards.

Videoconferencing

To leverage the opportunities presented by digitalisation, La Biennale significantly reduced the number of off-site in-person press conferences, both in Italy and abroad. Instead, it transitioned to streaming conferences, thereby eliminating the environmental impact associated with travel.

Separate Waste Collection

Plastic and paper waste are collected separately from general waste at all event venues. In particular, every office in the institutional headquarters has been provided with bins to separately collect Paper/Glass/Plastic waste.

Public Awareness

We have also encouraged the public attending our events to make responsible choices and adopt beneficial behaviours. On the Biennale website, we have published a section dedicated to environmental sustainability³, featuring a decalogue of good practices aimed at reducing environmental impacts and promoting sustainable visits and stays in Venice.

2 25 g of plastic per 500 ml bottle

3 <https://www.labiennale.org/en/environmental-sustainability>

While purchasing tickets, visitors are further engaged by the request to complete a questionnaire that includes three questions regarding their reason for visiting Venice, where they are travelling from, and what means of transport they will use to reach the city.

This moment of engagement is not only valuable to La Biennale's internal goal of more accurately measuring the emissions we are responsible for, it is yet another tangible signal to the public of our attention to this issue.

Supplier Awareness and Assessments

Our sustainability objectives are communicated to current and potential suppliers through specific disclosures, which are also published in a dedicated section of our website. These disclosures outline the criteria that La Biennale intends to adopt to develop and maintain over time a supply chain engaged with the issues of environmental sustainability.

These criteria are applied in a differentiated manner based on the types of goods and services provided.

While continuing current initiatives, La Biennale intends to expand its plan by taking new actions, such as:

- strengthening environmental communications targeted at the public attending our events;
- raising awareness among the artists participating in the festivals and exhibitions;
- raising awareness among the organisers of the National Participations in the Art and Architecture Exhibitions and the Collateral Events;
- more specifically, to facilitate accounting of the CO₂ emissions relative to transport, suppliers have been asked to fill out recapitulatory reports in order to aggregate and standardise the data regarding: means of transportation, transportation routes and engine power.

Organisation

In 2024, water dispensers were installed for employees in the offices of the Lido and Ca' Giustinian. This action reduced the use of plastic by 225 kg, equivalent to 9,000 less bottles per year which correspond to circa 0.66 tonnes of CO₂.

Full dematerialisation of the contracts cycle is being implemented.

Carbon footprint reporting

CALCULATION METHODOLOGY

CO₂ emissions are calculated by taking into account the entire life cycle of the event, including the phases of organisation, installation, management, and finally dismantling. This calculation involves multiplying primary data, which represents the carbon impact factor for each source, by the corresponding conversion factor.

Primary data is gathered from the ticketing system and other management systems, or may be collected from suppliers, while the conversion factors are derived from publicly available databases.

Main sources under consideration	Emissions calculation drivers (primary data)
Energy and fuel consumed in the venues hosting the events	Quantity and origin (fossil/renewable) for electrical power; quantity by type for fossil fuels
Biennale headquarters and events organisation	Energy and water consumption (Ca' Giustinian), paper consumption, Biennale employee commutes, remote work energy consumption, business trips broken down by transport type (plane/train)
Installation furnishings and fittings	Type and quantity of material, sourcing from recycling chains
Merchandising: promotional materials and awards	
Furnishings and fittings – logistics	Journeys (round trips)
Travel and overnight stays – accredited visitors/ participants	Journeys (round trips) broken down by transport type (plane/ train), number of overnight stays
Travel and overnight stays – the general public	
Food services	Quantities of raw materials and goods used in the provision of services
Sanitation services	Relevant surface areas
Waste/waste produced when installations are dismantled and disposed of	Type and quantity of waste, broken down by disposal method (landfill or recycling/recovery)

EVENT RESULTS

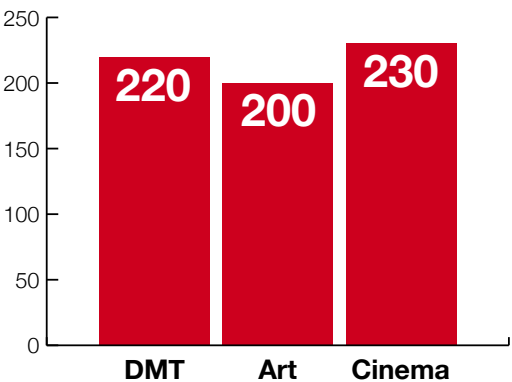
The combined carbon footprint for all the events analysed in 2024 was **154,961.18 tonnes of CO₂**.

Event	Carbon footprint (tCO ₂)	Visitors (no.)	Carbon intensity
18 th International Festival of Contemporary Dance 68 th International Festival of Contemporary Music 52 nd International Theatre Festival	2,490.15	11,506	0.22
60 th International Art Exhibition	141,915.6	720,583 *	0.20
81 st Venice International Film Festival	10,555.44	45,521	0.23
Total	154,961.18	777,610	0.20

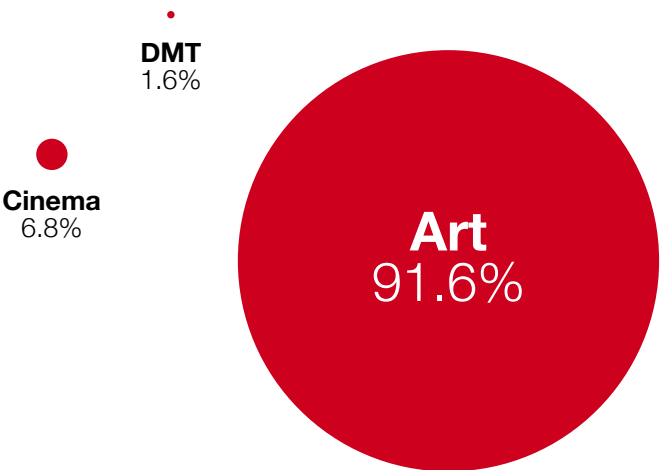
* including participants in the pre-opening

The total carbon intensity indicated above, calculated as the ratio between the emissions and the number of visitors, is equal to 200 kg of CO₂ per visitor.

Carbon intensity for each 2024 event – (kg CO₂ per visitor)



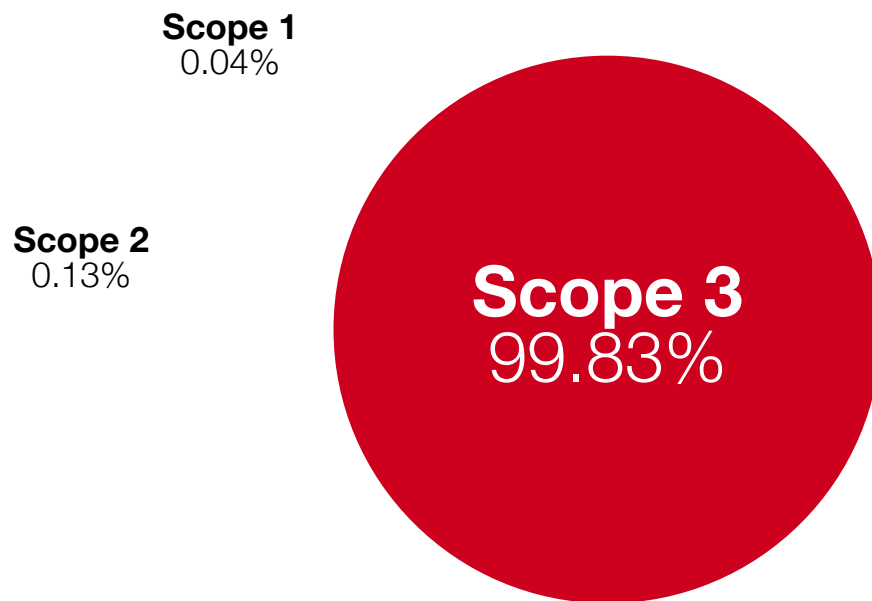
Contribution of each event to the total Carbon Footprint (tCO₂)



Breakdown of the total CO₂ emissions per “Scope” typology

Scope	Source	Carbon footprint (tCO ₂)	Carbon footprint (%)
1	Cooling system	62.44	0.04%
2	Energy consumed (from non-renewable sources)	195.53	0.13%
3	Organisation	350.74	99.83%
	Transport – logistics installations	652.30	
	Reinforcement local mobility	14.40	
	Materials – installations	308.12	
	Wayfinding and promotional material, awards	107.41	
	General public – travel and overnight stays	152,158.00	
	Waste water disposal and treatment	3.36	
	Food services	1,097.47	
	Cleaning and sanitation services	11.44	
		154,961.18	100%

Scope 1, 2 and 3 – Direct and indirect emissions

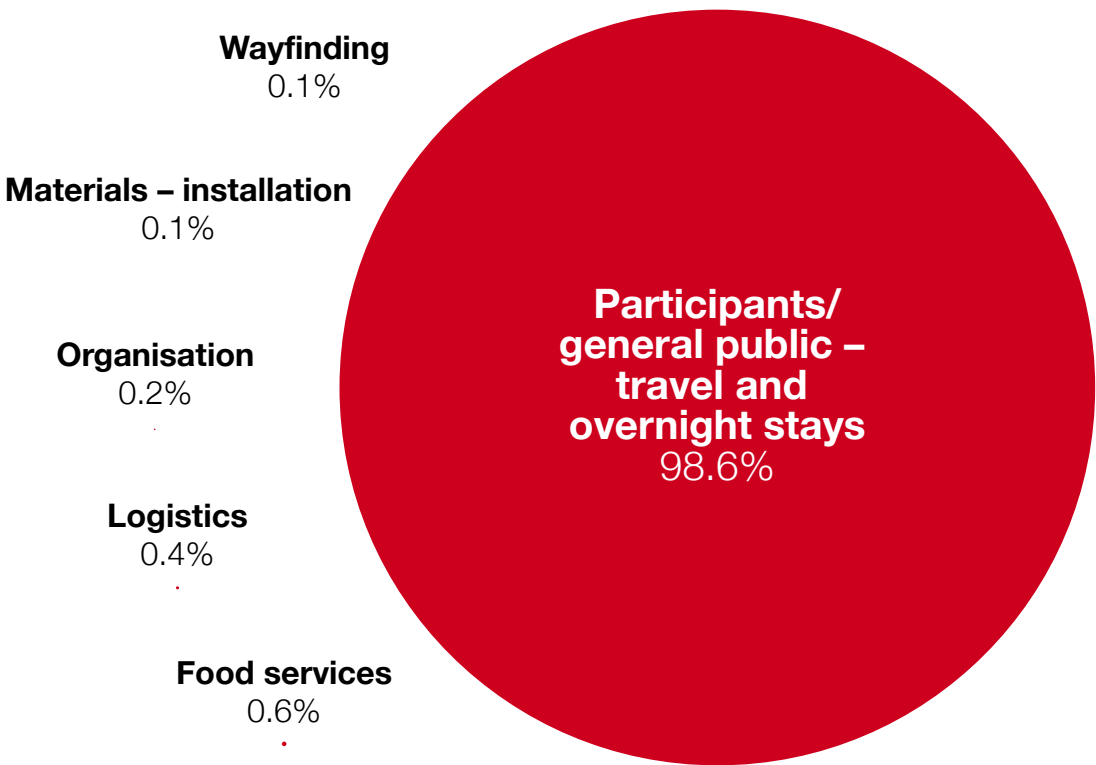


The breakdown of the emissions by source for each event is provided in detail below. The data reveals that people’s mobility (including travel and overnight stays of the general public, accredited visitors, artists, and companies and service personnel) is the most significant contributor, accounting for approximately 92% to 98% of all emissions. This varies based on the percentage of those who come from abroad and the use of airplane travel. The data shown in the table below is derived from the data included in the calculation inventory.

60th International Art Exhibition – 2024

Emissions per source	Carbon footprint (tCO ₂)	Carbon footprint (%)
Energy consumption (from non-renewable sources)	0.00	0.0%
Organisation	259.1	0.2%
Transport – furnishings and fittings logistics	598.2	0.4%
Reinforcement local mobility	0.0	0.0%
Materials – installation	125.5	0.1%
Wayfinding and promotional materials, awards	89.1	0.1%
Participants/general public – travel and overnight stays	139,966.4	98.6%
Waste water disposal and treatment	1.4	0.0%
Food services	868.9	0.6%
Cleaning and sanitation services	7.1	0.0%
Total GHG Emissions	141,915.6	100%

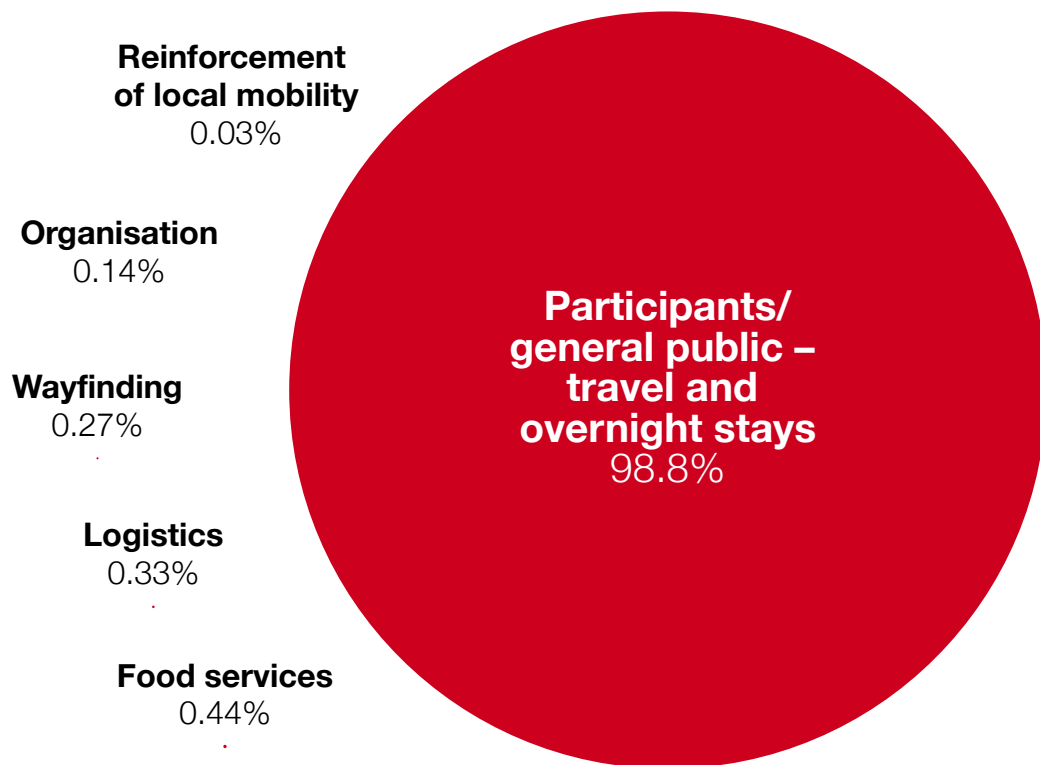
Carbon footprint 60th International Art Exhibition



52nd International Theatre Festival – 2024
18th International Festival of Contemporary Dance – 2024
68th International Festival of Contemporary Music – 2024

Emissions per source	Carbon footprint (tCO ₂)	Carbon footprint (%)
Organisation	3.48	0.14%
Transport – logistics installations	8.19	0.33%
Reinforcement of local mobility	0.76	0.03%
Wayfinding and promotional materials, awards	6.62	0.27%
Participants/general public – travel and overnight stays	2,460.22	98.80%
Waste water disposal and treatment	0.00	0.00%
Food services	10.88	0.44%
Total GHG emissions	2,490.15	100%

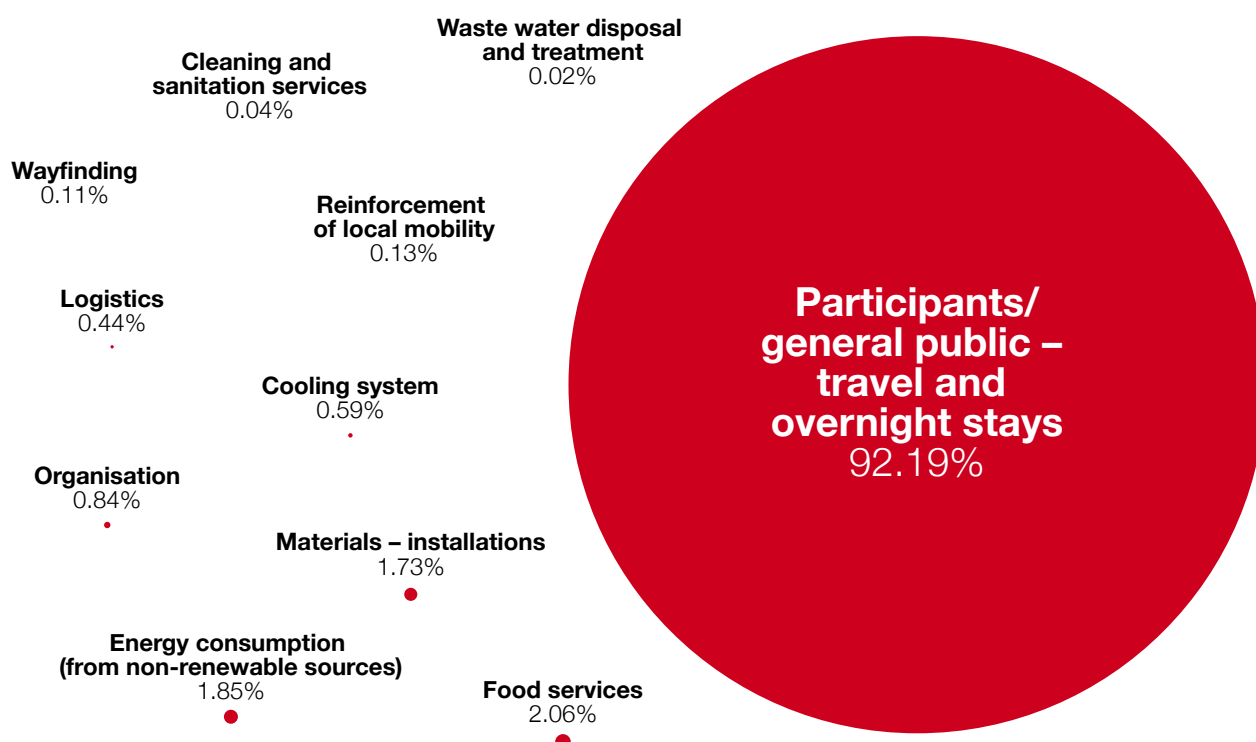
Carbon footprint for Dance, Music and Theatre Festivals



81st Venice International Film Festival – 2024

Emissions per source	Carbon footprint (tCO ₂)	Carbon footprint (%)
Cooling system	62.6	0.59%
Energy consumption (from non-renewable sources)	195.5	1.85%
Organisation	88.2	0.84%
Transport – installations logistics	45.9	0.44%
Reinforcement of local mobility	13.6	0.13%
Materials – installations	182.6	1.73%
Wayfinding and promotional materials, awards	11.7	0.11%
Participants/general public – travel and overnight stays	9,731.3	92.19%
Waste water disposal and treatment	2.0	0.02%
Food services	217.6	2.06%
Cleaning and sanitation services	4.4	0.04%
Total GHG emissions	10,555.7	100%

Impronta carbonica della 81. Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica



The offsetting projects

Carbon neutrality for the events in 2024 was achieved using the offsetting mechanism, which involves purchasing carbon credits from accredited markets.

In the year 2024, La Biennale has purchased a total of **185,000 tCO₂** thereby offsetting the direct and indirect emissions. The following projects were funded:

- **“Bundled Solar Photovoltaic Project”, ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited (India):** design and installation of grid connected renewable solar energy power plants, for a total power of 1208 MW. The implementation of project activity ensures energy security, diversification of the grid generation mix and sustainable growth of the electricity generation sector in India. ([public link](#))
- **CYY “Biopower wastewater treatment plant including biogas reuse for thermal oil replacement and electricity generation project” (Thailand):** the project entails the installation of a biogas reactor with UASB technology and up to a 2.72 (using 1.36 x 2) MWel gas engines at an existing starch manufacturing plant. The biogas reactor produces sufficient quantities of biogas to fuel thermal oil boilers for starch drying, replacing the use of heavy fuel oil, and to fuel a gas engine for the production of power for both in-house use and sale to the electricity grid. This will replace the production of power from the Thai national grid. ([public link](#))

The 2024 emissions, which totaled **154,961.18 tons of CO₂**, were offset by cancelling the following credits:

- P.S.C. Starch Wastewater Treatment and Biogas Utilization Project (remainder of titles purchased in 2023) for **7.274 tCO₂eq**
- Bundled Solar Photovoltaic Project”, ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited (India) for **134.642 tCO₂eq**
- CYY “Biopower wastewater treatment plant including biogas reuse for thermal oil replacement and electricity generation project” (Thailand), for **13.045 tCO₂eq**.

Venice, 19 February 2025