

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY 2024 – JUNE 2025

From roadmap to reality:
embedding sustainability across ISB



SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT REPORT | JANUARY 2024 – JUNE 2025



This report culminates ISB's five-year Sustainability Roadmap (2020-2025), capturing the final 18 months of focused implementation. It highlights how sustainability has evolved from a dedicated plan into an increasingly embedded part of our school's values, identity, and operations.

As a recognized leader among Beijing's international schools, ISB has accomplished a wide range of goals over the past few years, documented annually in our Sustainability Impact Reports. This edition summarizes progress from the 2024-2025 school year and the first half of the 2025 calendar year across operations, curriculum, co-curricular activities, and community engagement, with a particular focus on how these efforts have continued to develop in the final phase of the roadmap.

Highlights from this period include the continued expansion of student-led projects such as the Bird Window Collision Prevention initiative, first proposed and implemented in 2025 and now continuing as an ongoing student-led effort, and the now-established thrift store, launched in 2024 and continuing to grow; the installation of hydration stations that have saved approximately 37,000 plastic bottles each semester since their introduction in 2024; the synchronization of new solar panels increasing renewable energy production, building on the initial installation completed in summer 2023 and expanded in 2024; the adoption of formal sustainability principles by the Asia Pacific Activities Conference (APAC) in 2024; and the thoughtful continuation of our values of belonging into our People, Planet, Purpose framework.

With sustainability now more firmly woven into ISB's strategic vision, we are transitioning from a fixed five-year plan to an agile model of ambitious yearly goals aligned directly with the Head of School's priorities. This ensures that sustainability remains dynamic, embedded, and continually advancing our Mission to educate responsible global citizens.

Paola Alonso
Sustainability Manager

At a glance: impact highlights

- 909,704 kWh of solar energy generated in 2024
- 675,591 kWh generated in the first half of 2025 alone (48.5% of 2024 total)
- ~37,000 plastic bottles avoided per semester through hydration stations since 2024
- 2,000+ vehicles registered digitally, reducing paper-based systems
- 10 EV chargers installed (2024) supporting cleaner transportation

About this report: This Sustainability Impact Report outlines events and activities that took place during the 2024 calendar year and the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year. We intend to shift to a school-year calendar for reporting in the next edition. The data included pertains to areas under our operational control, such as our campus and transportation services. Climate data has been calculated in accordance with the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard methodology.

CURRICULUM

LEARNING + SHARING

In collaboration with the Office of Learning, workshops were conducted aimed at encouraging teachers to further explore sustainability pedagogy, building on earlier integration work across the school. During these sessions, teachers reflected on how sustainability is incorporated into their instructional practices. To guide them, we introduced the Education for Sustainability standards and performance indicators from The Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education.

Key findings from these workshops highlighted that sustainability practice encompasses a wide range of concepts, including the following:

- Preservation for future generations
- Informed decision-making
- Resource awareness
- Environmental protection
- Interconnectedness in the relationships between social, economic, and environmental systems
- The ability to adapt to changes and challenges through problem-solving

Understanding and integrating these concepts is essential for our students, as it reflects our commitment to empowering learners with purpose and compassion. To ensure that our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complex challenges of the 21st century, ISB's next steps include strengthening sustainability principles within our curriculum and continuing to provide professional development for staff.

The teams determined a plan that proposes the following:

- An exercise to align our current standards with the Education for Sustainability standards to identify areas for improvement and provide opportunities for growth
- Finding opportunities to weave sustainability into our existing curriculum
- Aligning sustainability enduring understandings in targeted units and social-emotional learning (SEL) lessons as part of our piloting strategy
- Recognizing and celebrating how sustainability is currently integrated across teams and identifying existing practices

Our Walk and Learn workshop "Campus as a Classroom" physically guided teachers through the campus to discover curricular extensions within our built and natural environment. This experiential session highlighted:

- ISB's Green Wall & Precious Plastics Lab: examples of circular economy and student-led design
- Cafeteria: a source of real data on food waste and sourcing for math and science inquiries
- Bird Collision Prevention Project: a model of student-led research connected to biology and design to protect the birds around our campus
- Heating and Cooling System & Geothermal Technology: a case study in sustainable policy and engineering
- Solar Panel Dashboard: a live data tool for lessons in energy, technology, and mathematics
- ISB's Rooftop Garden: a bookable outdoor classroom supporting wellness, biology, and environmental science from Kindergarten to Grade 12, first established in 2022 and now a fully embedded learning space

These workshops provided educators with tangible resources and a clear vision for using ISB's infrastructure as a dynamic "living lab." The path forward involves continuing to document, celebrate, and scale these integrative practices across grade levels and disciplines.

CO-CURRICULAR

LEARNING + SHARING

Goal

Develop and introduce service learning and sustainability guidelines for whole school co-curricular program with the intent of establishing holistic impact thinking and action by 2020.

Commitment to

Foster a new generation of environmental leaders by providing mentoring, networking, and experiential learning opportunities that prepare students with the insight and foresight to safeguard our environment in the years and decades to come.

Commitment to

Support student entrepreneurship by facilitating sustainability-minded opportunities on campus.



BEGINNING	APPROACHING	MEETING	MASTERING
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In April 2024, the HS Green Impact club hosted the Green-ovation Summit at our school, working with Wildbound, a local group focused on sustainability. This event was the first of its kind at ISB and allowed students from different schools (Grades 8 through 12) to come together, learn, and celebrate their achievements in helping the environment. Student leaders planned and organized the event, demonstrating strong collaboration and leadership.

The summit not only showcased our students' critical thinking but also brought two alumni back to our campus: Stanton Wong, who discussed sustainable building practices, and Hansen Bi, who presented on sustainable packaging options. This was a meaningful opportunity to strengthen connections with alumni while learning from their contributions in this field.



Grade 10 and 12 students along with their teachers celebrate the success of the Green-Ovation Summit



Student Cristina W, Grade 12, shares her passion project working with ES students on her efforts to reduce landfill waste generated on campus

Earth Month 2023-2024

During Earth Month 2023-2024, students across all divisions engaged in sustainability-focused activities. Elementary students explored the theme of EcoSpirit Month, while Middle School students participated in climate-focused challenges and learning experiences. High School students led initiatives on plant-based diets, sustainable packaging, and community education through their annual plant giveaway.

Students from all grades also planted trees around campus. Before the activity, students reported low excitement about being outdoors; following the activity, a survey showed that 40 percent of students improved their mood and felt motivated to advocate for a better planet.

With sponsorship from the ISB Bird Watching Club, the school hosted the Birds of Beijing Exhibition, alongside a visit from biodiversity expert Terry Townshend, who shared his work on wildlife conservation.

Alongside this, the Bird Window Collision Prevention Project continued to develop following its initial proposal and implementation in 2025, with students proposing and installing bird-safe window treatments. This initiative reflects how student-led research can translate into practical solutions that reduce harm to local biodiversity and will continue under the leadership of the High School Bird Watching Club.

The permanent thrift store continues to promote the concept of a circular economy by extending the life of products and reducing waste, building on its launch in 2024 by the Green Impact club.

To continue to support the development of our students' leadership skills, we partnered with the Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) to bring in Inspire Citizens, an organization that provides student leadership training and encourages student voices. During this training, students explored critical thinking by examining important issues related to identity and sustainability. They learned how to design workshops for advocacy, with the intention of also creating opportunities for more students and teachers to engage in community service projects focused on sustainability.

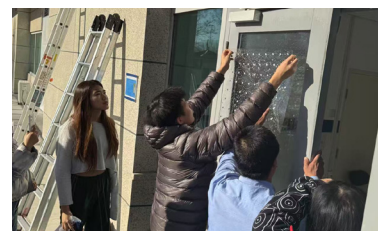
As a result, five tenth graders created a workshop for Middle and High School teachers about dealing with eco-anxiety, which is the worry that many young people feel about climate change. They discussed key climate issues and asked teachers to commit and take responsibility towards positive actions, creating plans with both short-term and long-term goals.



Elementary School students come together to advocate for climate action



Students planted trees on the ISB campus



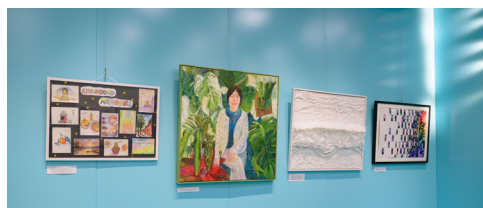
Installation of the anti-collision bird stickers



Evelyn L and Francesca R (G10) at the British Chamber's Sustainability Summit



Grade 10 students deliver a workshop to High School staff



People, Planet, Purpose Art Exhibition



Birds of Beijing Exhibition by the ISB Bird Watching Club

People, Planet, Purpose Weeks 2024-2025

In April 2025, we celebrated People, Planet, Purpose Weeks to shift our model from Earth Month and went back to highlight our core mission in the sustainability program at ISB: inspiring the next generation of thinkers and leaders to care for people and the planet. During these two weeks, we organized a variety of activities to engage all members of our school community.

One highlight was the People, Planet, Purpose Art Exhibition, where students, parents, and staff were invited to showcase their connections to people and planet through their artwork. Their contributions helped us learn that when artists create pieces that convey their feelings about topics such as pollution, kindness, or concerns about the future, it can make others reflect on these areas as well.

Our parent-led group of Dragon Storytellers joined in the cause by reading books about taking care of the planet to Elementary students. It was great to see families and ISB building strong partnerships to teach children about caring for the Earth.

The Student Anti-Bias Anti-Racism and Green Impact High School clubs came together to collaborate on an activity that showed how working together can bring new ideas and positive results. They designed and made keychains out of sustainable materials that conveyed messages about respect for all identities and taking care of the planet. They then hosted an event where students and staff could decorate and take home a keychain. This fun activity raised awareness and encouraged more students to think critically about respect and leading towards positive change.

Green Impact was honored to participate in a Middle School Student Council assembly to educate younger students about fast fashion and used funds raised from a thrift store to support the Peace House orphanage.

Meanwhile, in Elementary School, we continued our tradition of Spirit Week, where students created mandalas to express their visions for a sustainable future. Leading up to Earth Day, ISB partnered with local organizations to plant 100 trees. Students from Elementary through High School, along with teachers, took part in two trips: one to plant the trees and another to water them. During the second trip, we reflected on the importance of giving back to the community through service.

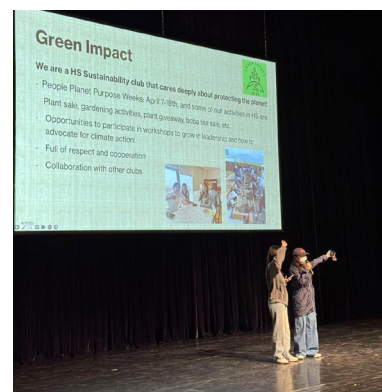
We also continued our tradition of Earth Hour on campus to raise awareness about how our electricity usage affects the planet. Students learned how small actions, like turning off lights, can make a positive difference. Overall, these activities helped strengthen our commitment to sustainability and community engagement.



Volunteer parents read to our young students about how to be kind to the Earth



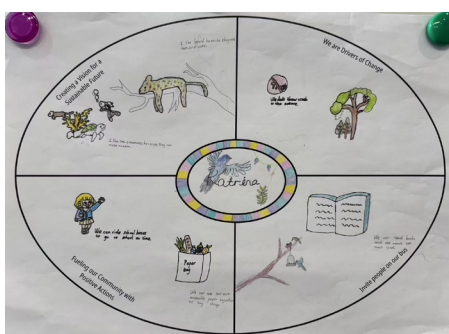
Eileen G, Grade 10, and Harry P, Grade 11, represented HS club SABAR



Special thanks to the Middle School for letting us be part of the Smile Week assembly!



Students engage in a People, Planet, Purpose lesson



A student's vision of a sustainable future and seeing herself as a driver of change

GOVERNANCE

LEARNING + SHARING

Goal

Establish Sustainability Guiding Statements and develop a Sustainability Action Plan to support achievement of the Sustainability Roadmap 2025 by 2019.

Goal

Develop and integrate a Social Cost of Carbon and Water into purchasing processes by 2025.

Commitment to

Facilitate strong governance structures to ensure integration of sustainability into all operational practices and participation of the ISB community.

Commitment to

Create, maintain, and continuously improve programs that drive progress towards this Sustainability Roadmap.

Governance at ISB continues to focus on how our sustainability efforts are guided and integrated across the institution. As a strategic initiative supported by the Head of School, sustainability is increasingly embedded in our identity and decision-making processes.

The Sustainability Action Plan 2025 has provided a strong foundation for this work. As we reach the culmination of the roadmap, sustainability is now more fully integrated into our strategic priorities, requiring continued schoolwide commitment.

Partnerships with local organizations have further strengthened our practices, allowing us to expand our impact and learn from the wider community.



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IMPACTFUL SHARING

LEARNING + SHARING

Commitment to

Transparent and open sharing of ISB's progress in this Roadmap via ISB's public website on an annual basis starting in 2019.

Commitment to

Communicate ISB's 'People, Planet, Purpose' sustainability story to educate, engage, and motivate the ISB community.

Commitment to

Recognize individuals providing significant contributions to ISB's sustainability accomplishments.

Commitment to

Cultivate external partnerships within the wider community that help inform ISB's efforts and amplify our local and global impact.

Impactful sharing continues to play an important role in connecting individual actions with collective impact. We further developed our Sustainability Shout-out series, highlighting staff members who model sustainable practices in their roles.

Student voice was also central to this work. At one Head of School Parent Coffee morning, students shared personal reflections on sustainability and encouraged practical actions such as reducing single-use waste and adopting reusable alternatives.

These efforts help make sustainability visible, relatable, and actionable across the ISB community.



BEGINNING	APPROACHING	MEETING	MASTERING
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Jasmine G, Eileen G and Jia L speak at a Head of School Parent Coffee morning



FOOD

PEOPLE

Standard

Develop Sustainable + Healthy Food Standard (w/consideration towards nutrition, labeling, sourcing, and impact) by 2020.

Commitment to

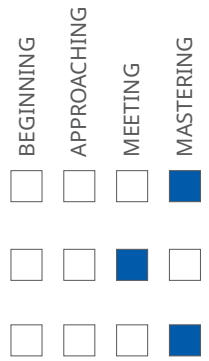
Educate and empower the ISB community to make sustainable food choices and form healthy eating habits.

Commitment to

Promote drinking water on campus to support healthy choices and hydration.

ISB's Farmers Markets continued as a community favorite and a key feature of the school's sustainability program. The regular markets have been connecting families with local, organic producers and reinforcing sustainable food systems since 2023, reflecting their continued growth as an established community initiative.

The rooftop garden continues to serve as both an interdisciplinary classroom and a space for well-being, supporting students across grade levels and programs, building on its establishment in 2022.



Students have been very engaged in Farmers Market events

Waste

PEOPLE

Target

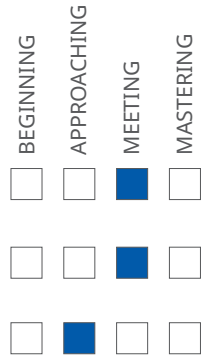
Reduce waste per student by 60 percent by 2025 from a 2017 baseline, where waste is defined as "no-longer-wanted materials leaving the campus not managed by one of the 5Rs."

Commitment to

Improve awareness and education of the ISB community on the 5Rs (refuse, reduce, reuse, recycling, rot) and the impacts of the waste we generate.

Commitment to

Long-term ambition to become a zero-waste school.



A core focus of our sustainability program continues to be shifting from a linear "take-make-dispose" model to a circular mindset centered on Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. This year, we focused on reducing single-use plastics, textile waste, and paper consumption through practical, community-wide initiatives.

To address single-use plastics, modern water dispensers installed across campus provide chilled, sparkling, and hot water, preventing approximately 37,000 plastic bottles per semester from entering the waste stream since their introduction in 2024. The Green Café initiative further supports this effort by eliminating single-use cups and packaging in favor of reusable alternatives.

We also introduced the ISB Clothing Exchange, which will continue as an annual Spirit Wear Exchange. This initiative encourages secondhand consumption, reduces textile waste, and has helped build a culture of conscious consumption within the community.

A major systematic reduction of paper came from digitizing campus access and administration. We transitioned family and contractor background checks, vehicle registrations, and parent ID applications to fully online platforms like our WeChat mini program, Dragon Connect. This shift has:

- Processed over 413 family cards and all contractor checks digitally.
- Registered 2,069 vehicles through an online form, eliminating paper files.
- Set the standard for a fully paperless vehicle pass system for the coming year.

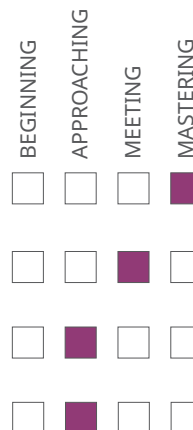
This digital leap has eradicated thousands of paper forms, plastic cards, and physical documents, embedding a "refuse and reduce" strategy directly into our operational core.



Families participate in our first ISB Clothing Exchange

ENERGY & EMISSIONS

PLANET



Target

100 percent of electricity from renewable sources starting in 2020.

Target

Reduce Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2025 from a 2018 baseline.

Target

Achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. As part of this target ISB commits to reducing Scope 1+2+3 emissions by 90 percent by 2050 from a 2018 baseline.

Commitment to

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to align with the most ambitious aim of the Paris Agreement, to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, meaning to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050.

Building on our initial solar installation, completed in summer 2023, we expanded our renewable energy capacity in 2024 by synchronizing a new array of solar panels at the West Gate with the existing rooftop system. This expansion has increased on-site clean energy production, particularly during peak demand periods.



Chart 1. Amount of electricity produced monthly in 2024 in kWh.

In 2024, our solar panels produced a total of 909,704 kWh. That's equivalent to...

- Powering 86 average American homes for an entire year*
- Powering 627 average Chinese households for an entire year*
- Avoiding 391 metric tons of CO₂ – like taking 85 gasoline-powered cars off the road
- The carbon-cleaning power of 17,800 mature trees

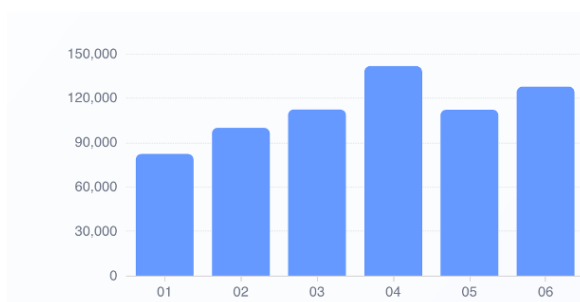


Chart 2. Amount of electricity produced monthly during the first half of 2025 in kWh

In the first half of 2025, our solar panels produced a total of 675,591 kWh. That's equivalent to...

- Powering 64 average American homes for an entire year*
- Powering 466 average Chinese households for an entire year*
- Avoiding 290 metric tons of CO₂ – like taking 63 gasoline-powered cars off the road
- The carbon-cleaning power of 13,200 mature trees

* Based on average household consumption: 10,600 kWh (USA) and 1,450 kWh (China)

Comparison of these two sets of data, which include just six months of 2025 versus the whole of 2024, shows that this first-half total already puts us 48.5 percent ahead of last year's pace at this point in the year.

PROCUREMENT

PLANET

Target

Fifty percent of procurement spend meeting sustainability purchasing standard by 2025, 100 percent by 2030.

Standard

Develop sustainable purchasing standard for paper, lighting, and electronics by 2022, other relevant items by 2025.

Commitment to

Purchasing in an environmental, social, and financially sustainable manner.

Commitment to

Creating a culture of sustainable purchasing across the community.

Commitment to

Including environmental and social criteria as part of major partner procurement and require major partners to support the achievement of and provide reporting for relevant ISB targets and commitments.



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In the spring of 2025, ISB proudly hosted the English Language Learning Specialists in Asia (ELLSA) conference. Viewing this as an opportunity to showcase our institutional values, our organizers selected sustainable giveaways for attendees. These included gifts made from recycled paper, mugs created from coffee grounds, and notebooks crafted with cork. This conscientious selection minimized plastic usage, demonstrating our commitment to environmental stewardship.



ISB sustainable giveaways for the ELLSA conference

TRANSPORTATION

CAMPUS

Target

Electrify 75 percent of bus and taxi fleet by 2025; 100 percent by 2030.

Commitment to

Reduce emissions of harmful vehicle-related air pollutants within the community and particularly on campus.



BEGINNING	APPROACHING	MEETING	MASTERING
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In partnership with the Facilities team, we installed 10 electric vehicle (EV) chargers on campus in 2024. We actively promoted their use to staff and parents, incentivizing the shift away from fossil-fuel-powered vehicles and supporting the electrification of our community's transportation.

CONCLUSION

The completion of ISB's five-year Sustainability Roadmap marks an important milestone in the school's sustainability journey. Over this period, sustainability has evolved from a focused initiative into an increasingly embedded part of how ISB operates, teaches, and engages its community.

As we move beyond the roadmap, our focus shifts to sustaining and building on this progress through agile, annual priorities aligned with the school's strategic direction. With strong foundations in place, ISB is well positioned to continue advancing its commitment to responsible, future-focused education.



IMPACT DATA

As part of ISB's commitment to transparency, below is a compilation of environmental, social, and governance indicators. All reported values represent the best available data at the time of publication. Data may be adjusted in the future to incorporate updated methodology, structural changes, and/or minor corrections. Additional details on these changes are included as footnotes where applicable. Environmental Data is based on the calendar year.

	Units	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Semester 1						
Students (EY3 - Grade 12 / September)	#	1803	1786	1664	1722	1660
Staff	#	469	439	431	422	420
Female	%	69	70	71%	69%	65%
Male	%	31	30	29%	31%	35%
Women in Leadership	%	61	61	61%	61%	54%
Women in Faculty	%	136	131	60%	57%	137
Women in Support Staff	%	160	152	82%	83%	146
Student-Driven Sustainability Projects Implemented	#	5	6	1	1	2
Staff Recognized as Sustainability Change Agents	#	5	2	1	2	11
Students Making an Impact News Articles	#	0	2	1	5	3
Scope 1 - Direct ¹	MTCO ₂ e	1452	2891	3594	3378	3020
Scope 2 - Purchased Electricity ²	MTCO ₂ e	3868	8494	0	0	0
Scope 1 + 2 Emission Reduction from 2018 (Target 80% by 2025)	%	61%	17%	91	95	77%
Scope 2 - Electricity (default supply) ²	MTCO ₂ e	3868	8494	9089	8624	9439
Scope 3 - Fuel- and Energy Related Activities ³	MTCO ₂ e	26	52	56	41	58
Scope 3 - Waste	MTCO ₂ e	14	30	27	14	61
Scope 3 - School Travel	MTCO ₂ e	467	467	556	96	96
Scope 3 - Employee Commuting	MTCO ₂ e	391	391	400	399	0
Total Energy Use	MWH	12636	25564	28589	26257	26179
Electricity - Buildings	MWH	3808	8430	9378	8939	9587
Natural Gas / Diesel / Petrol	MWH	7599	15140	17827	17126	16158
Renewable Electricity Use	MWH	676	910	12547	12000	10021
Bus Fleet Electrification (Target 75 by 2025)	%	60	60	60	50	50
ISB Vehicle Electrification	%	33	33	33	33	33
Water Withdrawal	Cubic Meters	36979	75425	74668	69943	66738
Water Withdrawal Reduction from 2018 (Target 25% by 2025)	(100 is best) Cubic Meters	13	11	12	17	21
Waste Landfilled / Incinerated	%	26	57	58	30.6	39
Waste Recycled		11.05	9.35	5.15	2.84	1.3
Waste Composted	Metric Tons	0	0	0	0	0
Waste Generated per Student	Metric Tons	0.015	0.032	0.035	0.018	0.023
Compost and Recycling Rates	Metric Tons kg / student %	26	17	9	12	11

Footnotes:

1.) Direct emissions means emissions that are in our direct control. This includes the natural gas we burn in our boilers, the diesel in our buses, and the refrigerants released from our chillers.

2.) Best practice is to report the emissions from electricity in two ways. The first is based on who you buy your electricity from, which could be from a wind or solar farm, resulting in no emissions; this is called the market method. The second is based on where you are and the average emission impact of the electricity in the region; this is called the location method. The intent of showing both is to understand the impact of your electricity purchasing decisions.

3.) Fuel- and Energy Related Activities refers to the emissions associated with extracting, processing, and transporting the energy consumed, whether it be coal, natural gas, or oil.

MTCO₂e = metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. All greenhouse gases have different global warming potentials; to determine the carbon dioxide equivalent of methane (CH₄) for example, you would multiply the emissions by its global warming potential of 28.