



HAL
open science

An open-source tool to assess the carbon footprint of research

Jérôme J. Mariette, Odile Blanchard, Olivier Berné, Tamara Ben Ari

► To cite this version:

Jérôme J. Mariette, Odile Blanchard, Olivier Berné, Tamara Ben Ari. An open-source tool to assess the carbon footprint of research. 2021. hal-03796807v1

HAL Id: hal-03796807

<https://hal.science/hal-03796807v1>

Preprint submitted on 19 Jan 2021 (v1), last revised 5 Oct 2022 (v3)

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

An open-source tool to assess the carbon footprint of research

Jérôme Mariette ^{*} Odile Blanchard [†] Olivier Berné[‡]
Tamara Ben-Ari[§] ...

January 19, 2021

Version 1 of the paper : author list to be completed

Abstract

Research institutions are bound to contribute to greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction efforts for several reasons. First, part of the scientific community's research deals with climate change issues. Second, scientists contribute to students' education : they must be consistent and role models. Third the literature on the carbon footprint of researchers points to the high level of some individual footprints. In a quest for consistency and role models, scientists, teams of scientists or universities have started to quantify their carbon footprints and debate on reduction options. Indeed, measuring the carbon footprint of research activities requires tools designed to tackle its specific features. In this paper, we present an open-source web application, *GES 1point5*, developed by an interdisciplinary team of scientists from several research labs in France. *GES 1point5* is specifically designed to estimate the carbon footprint of research activities in France. It operates at the scale of research labs, i.e., *laboratoires*, which are the social structures around which research is organized in France and the smallest decision making entities in the French research system. The application allows French

^{*}Université de Toulouse, INRAE, UR MIAT, F-31320, Castanet-Tolosan, France

[†]Univiversité Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, INRAE, Grenoble INP, GAEL, 38000 Grenoble, France

[‡]Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planetologie, Université de Toulouse, CNRS, CNES, UPS, Toulouse, France, 9 Av. du colonel Roche, 31028 Toulouse Cedex 04, France

[§]UMR 211, INRAE, AgroParisTech, Université Paris-Saclay, F-78850 Thiverval-Grignon, France; CIRED, UMR 8568, F-94736 Nogent-sur-Marne, France

research labs to compute their own carbon footprint along a standardized, open protocol. The data collected in a rapidly growing network of labs will be used as part of the *Labos 1point5* project to estimate France's research carbon footprint. We expect that an international adoption of *GES 1point5* (adapted to fit domestic specifics) could contribute to establishing a global understanding of the drivers of the research carbon footprint worldwide and the levers to decrease it.

Availability and implementation: GES 1point5 is available online for French research labs at <http://labos1point5.org/ges-1point5> and source code can be downloaded from the GitLab platform at <https://framagit.org/labos1point5/11p5-vuejs>.

Keywords: carbon footprint, research sector, WEB application

1 Introduction

When signing the Paris Agreement, France committed to drastically reducing its domestic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within the next decades. All sectors are expected to contribute to this mitigation effort, including the public sector. Although it is expected that the research sector's direct contribution to domestic GHG emissions is small, research institutions are bound to contribute to these reduction efforts for several reasons. First, part of the scientific community's research deals with climate change issues; their results point to the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The whole scientific community cannot ignore those results. Second, scientists contribute to students' education and often stand at the forefront of the discussions on climate change and its impacts on ecosystems and societies : they must be consistent and be role models. Third the literature on the research sector's GHG emissions points a high footprints of some scientists [Nature Astronomy, 2020, Spinellis and Louridas, 2013, Fox et al., 2009, Grémillet, 2008].

At the international level, only a small number of studies report on estimates of the carbon footprint of the research sector. These studies either focus on one single entity such as a research lab or a university [Güereca et al., 2013, Wynes et al., 2019], on a specific event such as a conference [Spinellis and Louridas, 2013, Desiere, 2016, Stroud and Feeley, 2015, Klöwer et al., 2020], on a single source of GHG emissions such as air travel [Ciers et al., 2019], or on a specific research project [Achten et al., 2013, Barret, 2020]. When more comprehensive, these estimates relate only to one single year [Güereca et al., 2013]. Furthermore, all of these studies rely on the development of ad-hoc methodologies relying on a specific set of emission factors (*i.e.*, the parameters used to convert activity levels into GHG emissions). This point prevents from any comparison between carbon footprints and highlights the need for a dedicated and standardized application.

Several tools are actually freely available. Some are designed to estimate individual or

households' GHG emissions and may be bounded to lucrative carbon offset schemes¹²³⁴⁵. The GHG Protocol⁶ offers a set of worksheets dedicated to industries, businesses, countries or cities. The University of New Hampshire has developed SIMAP^{®7}, a standardized software to address the specific needs of North American education institutions, colleges, and universities. In France, *Bilan Carbone*^{®8} is a generic tool developed as a set of worksheets and requires its users to pay for a licence and a training program. None of these tools are specifically designed to estimate the carbon footprints of research activities.

In this paper, we present a free and open source standardized web application, *GES 1point5*. It has been developed by an interdisciplinary team of engineers and researchers who work in various research labs in France and interact in the non governmental organization *Labos 1point5*⁹. The tool allows any research lab to (i) estimate the emissions relating to the energy consumption and refrigerant gases of its buildings, and to its members' travels (ii) easily highlight, via a graphic interface, the main GHG emissions drivers of a research lab, and (iii) design emission reduction actions and evaluate their impact over time. Because they rely on a standardized protocol, completed *GES 1point5*-based GHG inventories can be compared. This enables to make progress in our understanding of the drivers of the research footprint (e.g., disciplinary or geographic). At the national scale, the data collected will allow to estimate the carbon footprint of the French public research and thus support the exploration of evidence-based emission reduction strategies.

The paper is organised as follows: we first describe a few specifics of the French research system and the goals of *GES 1point5*; we then describe *GES 1point5* methodology and its implementation; the fifth section provides an illustration of *GES1 point5* outputs, namely

¹<https://co2.myclimate.org/en/>

²<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/>

³<https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/footprintcalc>

⁴<https://nosgestesclimat.fr/simulateur/bilan>

⁵<https://www.goodplanet.org/fr/calculateurs-carbone/particulier/>

⁶<https://ghgprotocol.org/>

⁷<https://www.unh.edu/sustainability/research/campus-calculator-tools>

⁸<https://www.associationbilancarbonate.fr/les-solutions/>

⁹<https://labos1point5.org/>

the GHG inventory and carbon footprint of a fictitious research lab; future developments and research perspectives are addressed in the sixth section, before the conclusion.

2 Context and goals

The French research system encompasses several types of institutions ¹⁰: national research institutes (such as CNRS, INRAe, CEA, IRD, ...), semi-private research institutions (such as CIRAD, Ifremer, etc.) and universities. These institutions take part in social structures called *laboratoires* (referred to as “research labs” in the following sections). Their financial contributions to the operation of research labs may be multiple, *e.g.* they may pay the salaries or stipends of its members, provide fixed assets such as buildings or infrastructures, pay for resources such as supplies, electricity, etc. A typical *laboratoire* benefits from the involvement of several institutions or universities. These research labs comprise between tens and at most a few hundred members, and occupy one or several buildings. A *laboratoire* usually focuses on a specific scientific field. France counts over 1000 public research labs overall.

In this context, the implementation of *GES 1point5* was initiated to provide the French scientific community with a free and open source tool able to estimate the carbon footprint of a research lab using a standardized methodology. *GES 1point5* operates at the scale of research labs for several reasons. *GES 1point5* is part of *Labos 1point5*¹¹, a large interdisciplinary project in France that aims at fueling a bottom-up momentum by mobilizing members of the research community as opposed to decision-makers in the academic bureaucracy. Research labs are the smallest human scale entities in the research system. They rely on independent and collective decision-making processes: experimental designs, as well as access to research facilities are decided and managed at the research lab scale. Consequently, a number of decisions relevant to the reduction of the carbon footprint can be made at the

¹⁰<https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2006/04/finding-your-way-around-french-research-system>

¹¹labos1point5.org

scale of research labs.

Sharing a common methodology allows to compare and aggregate results to analyse and answer research questions at the research lab scale but also at smaller and larger scales. At the research lab scale, the carbon footprint can be analysed to understand (i), the main emission sources and the relative contribution of each activity, (ii), the relative contribution of its members according to their professional status, and (iii), the emission dynamics over time relative to the mitigation actions that may have been implemented. Indeed, *GES 1point5* is meant to be a decision support tool for mitigation actions and experiments. For example, to reduce emissions from professional travels, different mitigation decisions or policies may be tested, such as an internal carbon tax or individual emission quotas.

At a smaller scale, *GES 1point5* may also allow to estimate the carbon footprint of specific research projects or specific teams within the lab, that of PhD theses or even of conferences.

At a larger scale, another objective with *GES 1point5* is to create a dataset which is a collection of the GHG footprints of a large number of research labs in France in a large array of disciplines. Combining this dataset with statistical analyses, it will be possible to perform an extrapolation to assess the overall carbon footprint of French public research, and to describe the distribution of sources of emissions across regions and disciplines.

Coupling the analyses performed at different scales with the experiences led by research labs will contribute to the construction of robust emission reduction scenarios at the global level and recommendations in terms of public research policy.

3 *GES 1point5* methodology

GES 1point5 complies with and refers to the French legislation [MEEM, 2016]. When estimating the carbon footprint of an entity, it is necessary to precisely define its scope *i.e.* the GHGs considered and the emission sources included, as well as to mention the emission factors chosen. The next two subsections present *GES 1point5* features in these respects.

3.1 Scope

As required by the French legislation, the GHGs considered in *GES 1point5* are those of the Kyoto Protocol. In terms of emission sources, *GES 1point5* takes into account those that are common and most often critical in research labs: buildings through energy consumption, air conditioning and refrigeration processes, daily commutes and professional travels due to the use of cars, boats or planes to attend meetings or harvest field data.

3.2 Emission factors

An emission factor represents the amount of GHG emissions generated by a unit of activity. The emission factors included in *GES 1point5* mainly stem from the ADEME database¹² that is the backbone of the French legislation. When an emission factor is missing from the ADEME database, the application refers to the most recent available studies. This is the case for example for an electric bike [AVEM, 2015] or for an electric scooter [Arcadis, 2019]. Furthermore, the *GES 1point5* team has created customized emission factors to take into account specific research lab activities. For example, the application includes an emission factor for research campaigns at sea, based on ad-hoc estimates carried out by some laboratories.

GES 1point5 also corrects some of the ADEME database inconsistencies. For example, in its current version¹³, the ADEME database does not include manufacturing emissions in the emission factor per kilometer of a gasoline car, whereas it does for hybrid and electric cars. As manufacturing emissions are significant when considering the total emissions of a car, these emissions are included in *GES 1point5* for all types of cars, using factors that were provided in a previous version of the ADEME database. More generally, *GES 1point5* includes manufacturing emission factors for all vehicles when these emissions are significant, *i.e.*, cars, buses, coaches, trains, streetcars and subways. The application includes man-

¹²<https://www.bilans-ges.ademe.fr/en/accueil/>

¹³version 19.0

ufacturing emissions drawn from previous versions of the ADEME database and adjusted proportionately to the weight they represented in the total emission factor of the previous versions.

All methodological choices are thoroughly detailed in the methodology section of the tool available online.

4 Implementation

GES 1point5 has been implemented as a set of components using VueJS¹⁴ and django¹⁵ frameworks. The application uses input information that can be gathered reasonably easily (provided support is granted by the administration) and converts it into a GHG footprint. For a given number of emission sources, *GES 1point5* converts GHG-emitting activity levels into CO_{2e} (carbon dioxide equivalent) using emission factors as described in Section 3.2.

From its welcome page (Figure 1), the application offers its users the opportunity to estimate GHG emissions anonymously or using an authenticated account. In the latter case, *GES 1point5* allows to store input and output data relating to the research lab emissions. To gather the data required, the application provides a set of forms and routines briefly described below.

4.1 Inputs

- General information : year of the GHG inventory ; number of lab members according to their position (e.g. research members, technicians, administrative staff, PhD students, post-doctoral fellows).
- Data on buildings : floor area ; consumption of electricity, heat, and refrigerant gases ; specifics related to the generation of electricity, when applicable (e.g. use of solar

¹⁴<https://vuejs.org/>

¹⁵<https://www.djangoproject.com/>

panels).

- Data on transportation modes operated by the lab : type (e.g. car, truck, aircraft) ; type of fuel ; power, distances travelled, number of hours of operation when applicable. Figure 2 presents the form dedicated to add a new vehicle and entering its energy consumption.
- Commutes : a standardized survey dedicated to collect lab members' daily commutes is provided by *GES 1point5*, using the *Framiform* web application provided by *framsoft*, a not-for-profit organization that makes the safe handling of personal data overarching. The survey is to be sent to all lab members. Once the survey period is over, results can be exported from *Framiform* and directly imported into *GES 1point5*.
- Professional travel : the raw data are extracted from the information systems of the various research institutions that pay for the travels of the lab members. For each trip, they comprise information on the date, the departure and destination places (cities, countries), the travel modes, the travel purpose, the status of the lab member. These data are imported as a .tsv file into *GES 1point5*, Table 1 defines the required format.

4.2 Outputs

As previously mentioned, *GES 1point5* complies with the French legislation, which itself abides by the GHG Protocol standard [WRI and WBCSD, 2004]. The application thus provides the regulatory table covering scope 1 (direct emissions from owned or controlled sources), scope 2 (indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heating and cooling), as well as some emission categories among all other indirect emissions of scope 3. The resulting table, presented in Figure 3 can be downloaded in csv format.

On top of displaying GHG emissions distribution within the three regulatory scopes, *GES 1point5* provides a user-friendly synthetic representation of the research lab's carbon

Labos 1point5 LE COLLECTIF LES RESSOURCES GES 1POINTS NOS TEXTES NOUS REJOINDRE

15 GES 1POINTS

LA DOCUMENTATION

- La méthodologie
- Aide
- L'équipe GES 1point5

LES DONNÉES

- Introduction**
- Le périmètre
- Les bâtiments
- Les véhicules
- Les missions
- Dpts domicile / travail

LES RÉSULTATS

- Le bilan réglementaire
- L'approche empreinte

Introduction

GES 1point5, développé par Labos 1point5, est un outil permettant de calculer l'empreinte carbone et de construire le bilan gaz à effet de serre (BGES) réglementaire de votre laboratoire.

A travers cet outil l'objectif est double :

- Mener des études scientifiques relatives à l'empreinte carbone de la recherche publique française (notre champ d'investigation actuel est limité à la France, y compris les DOM-TOM).
- Nourrir la réflexion sur les leviers d'actions permettant de réduire l'impact des activités de recherche sur les émissions de gaz à effet de serre, tant à l'échelle nationale que locale au laboratoire.

Pour trouver de l'aide et poser des questions sur l'établissement de votre BGES, vous pouvez rejoindre le [forum](#) de la communauté GES 1point5 en suivant ce [lien d'invitation](#).

Merci de bien vouloir **consulter attentivement la documentation** (méthodologie et aide) avant de débiter et de nous contacter.

Pourquoi utiliser GES 1point5 ?

- Contribuer** : Contribuer à un champ scientifique émergent.
- Impliquer** : Impliquer directement les personnels des laboratoires.
- Partager** : Partager une méthodologie commune.
- Tenir compte** : Tenir compte des spécificités des laboratoires de recherche.
- Promouvoir** : Promouvoir les outils numériques libres.

UTILISATEUR LABOS 1POINTS

Être utilisateur Labos 1point5 de GES 1point5 signifie :

- ✓ Faire le BGES réglementaire de votre **laboratoire**
- ✗ Estimer l'empreinte carbone de votre **équipe / projet**
- ✓ Estimer l'empreinte carbone de votre laboratoire
- ✓ Avoir accès à l'ensemble des formulaires
- ✓ Avoir accès et exporter les résultats
- ✓ Avoir l'accord du directeur de votre laboratoire
- ✓ Participer à l'étude nationale
- ✓ Avoir accès aux BGES multi-années de votre laboratoire
- ✓ Pouvoir éditer les données de votre laboratoire

UTILISATEUR ANONYME

Être utilisateur anonyme de GES 1point5 signifie :

- ✓ Faire le BGES réglementaire de votre laboratoire
- ✓ Estimer l'empreinte carbone de votre **équipe / projet**
- ✓ Estimer l'empreinte carbone de votre laboratoire
- ✓ Avoir accès à l'ensemble des formulaires
- ✓ Avoir accès et exporter les résultats
- ✗ Avoir l'accord du directeur de votre laboratoire
- ✗ Participer à l'étude nationale
- ✗ Avoir accès aux BGES multi-années de votre laboratoire
- ✗ Pouvoir éditer les données de votre laboratoire

J'ai pris connaissance des conditions générales d'utilisation.

Figure 1: The *GES 1point5* welcome page offers its user the opportunity to estimate GHG emissions anonymously or using an authenticated account. The application menu, on the left, allows to navigate between documentation pages and the different emission sources forms.

Ajouter un véhicule

Sélectionnez le type de véhicule (véhicules routiers, bateaux ou encore aéronefs) ainsi que sa motorisation.
 Par défaut la saisie des données (consommation d'énergie, distance parcourue, durée d'utilisation) est mensuelle. Si vous avez seulement une donnée annuelle, décochez la case « Consommations / Heures de vol mensuelles disponibles ».

Le laboratoire a le contrôle opérationnel de ce véhicule. ⓘ

Identifiant:

Type: (dropdown menu open showing: Voiture, Moto, Vélo, Trotinette, Aéronef, Bateau)

Motorisation: (dropdown menu)

Consommations mensuelles disponibles en

Janvier	Février			Mai	Juin
<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Juillet	Août	Septembre	Octobre	Novembre	Décembre
<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Figure 2: Form to add a new vehicle to the research lab's inventory. The vehicle can be either a car, a motorbike, a bike, a scooter, an aircraft or a boat. The form requires to define the vehicle motorisation and its annual consumption.

Table 1: Column description of the tsv file accepted by *GES 1point5* to import professional travels.

Column ID	Description
Trip number	One line per leg of the trip ; the trip number is a simple sequence number (from 1 to n) which allows to gather all the legs of the same trip. If the return trip is different from the outward trip, two lines must be used.
Departure date	A date in dd/mm/yyyy format.
Departure city	The departure city name. This field is used to obtain the departure city GPS coordinates using the <i>geonames</i> ¹⁶ database.
Departure country	The departure country or its ISO3166 code.
Destination city	The destination city name. This field is used to obtain destination city GPS coordinates using the <i>geonames</i> database.
Destination country	The destination country or its ISO3166 code.
Travel mode	This field can take a value among ["Avion", "Train", "Voiture", "Taxi", "Bus", "Tramway", "RER", "Métro", "Ferry"].
Number of people in the car	In case of a trip in a car or a taxi, number of people in the vehicle
One way / return	If the outward and return trips are identical, enter "OUI", otherwise "NON".
Travel purpose (optional)	This optional field allows the application to perform emissions statistics based on the travel purpose. This field can take a value among ["Etude terrain", "Colloque-Congrès", "Séminaire", "Enseignement", "Collaboration", "Visite", "Administration de la recherche", "Autre"].
Agent status (optional)	This optional field allows the application to perform emissions statistics based on agents' statuses. This field can take a value among ["Chercheur.e-EC", "ITA", "Doc-Post doc", "Personne invitée"].

footprint. It helps the user to analyse which emission sources most impact the overall carbon footprint of the research lab, and to decide which actions to implement in order to mitigate the lab's GHG emissions. For example, in this representation, the buildings' direct and indirect emissions generated from the heating and cooling systems are aggregated, whereas they are split among the three scopes in the regulatory display. Similarly, the travel carbon

footprint aggregates GHG emissions of vehicles, members' daily commutes and professional travels. In the regulatory table, these emissions are reported in scopes 1 and 3. Some examples of this operational representation of the carbon footprint are reported in Figure 4 and 5. All the figures provided can be downloaded in multiple formats, such as png, jpeg, svg or pdf.

5 Illustration

This section provides and discusses results of the 2019 greenhouse gas inventory of a fictitious research lab named Cogitamus. The lab comprises 80 members distributed as follows : 14 researchers, 24 associate professors, 17 engineers or administrative staff and 25 PhD students or postdoctoral fellows. Cogitamus occupies one building shared with another lab and 60% of the total floor space, 3 300 m^2 . In 2019, the building consumed 200 000 kWh PCI from the Toulouse Canceropole urban heating network, 120 000 kWh of electricity and 0.3 kg of the R32 cooling gas. The lab owns one diesel car which traveled 12 000 km in 2019. For a full reproducibility of the results presented in this section, the commuting survey results¹⁷ and the professional travel file¹⁸ used are freely available.

Figures 3, 4 and 5 illustrate the GHG emissions inventory that complies with the GHG Protocol standard, the user-friendly carbon footprint representation, graphs excerpted from *GES 1point5*, respectively. More specifically, figure 3 and 4 display the total emissions of the Cogitamus lab ($98\,032 \pm 28\,525$ kg CO₂e) from two different perspectives, *i.e.*, the regulatory GHG inventory table and the detailed carbon footprint. Figure 4 (top) shows that these emissions are mainly driven by professional travels (64%) followed by members' daily commutes (29%) and electricity (4%). Moreover, Figure 4 (bottom) illustrates that emissions generated by professional travels are dominated by congress attendees' travels and more specifically by researchers' travels to these congresses.

¹⁷<https://cloud.le-pic.org/s/HaZWEae7ef22KMy>

¹⁸<https://cloud.le-pic.org/s/msGYms2w7kqCNqJ>

Even if these results are fictitious, they highlight the benefits of using *GES 1point5* to point to the need to focus primarily on travel emissions for an efficient mitigation action, even if reducing the buildings' emissions may be implemented in case of low-hanging fruits. Such results become even more valuable when analysing the changes in emissions over the years and evaluating the efficiency of the mitigation actions implemented.





6 Discussion and perspectives

GES 1point5 is a first step in a larger endeavour to facilitate and inform emission reductions from research activities in France. Estimating the carbon footprints is a crucial step to mitigate research labs' GHG emissions as it brings clearer information compared to that stemming from scopes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHG Protocol standard. The carbon footprints point to the relative weights of the main building blocks of the research labs' GHG emissions. For example, if the buildings' carbon footprint of a research lab is very low compared to its travel carbon footprint, mitigation actions should mainly focus on the travel emissions - even if reducing the buildings' emissions may be implemented in case of low-hanging fruits. Similarly, within the travel carbon footprint, if the emissions from the professional travels overshadow the emissions from the staff and faculty commutes, mitigation actions should primarily focus on professional travels - even if raising awareness on the emissions from the commutes and acting to reduce them should also be addressed. *GES 1point5* helps to design and monitor mitigation actions in other respects, too. At the research lab level, while storing the GHG inventories year after year, it paves the way for analyses of the lab's emissions dynamics, define and implement action plans, monitor progress and define new action plans in the long run. At the national level, statistical analyses can be carried out based on the aggregated data-set of all labs, and help to design public policies towards the mitigation of GHG emissions of the public research sector.

This first version of *GES 1point5* presented in this paper focuses on the common emission

Poste	Description	Scope	CO2	CH4	N2O	Autres	Total (kg eCO2)
#1	Emissions directes des sources...	Scope 1	0	0	0	0	0 ± 0
#2	Emissions directes des sources...	Scope 1	0	0	0	0	1812 ± 1087
#3	Emissions directes des procédé...	Scope 1	0	0	0	0	0 ± 0
#4	Emissions directes fugitives	Scope 1	0	0	0	203	203 ± 61
#5	Emissions issues de la biomass...	Scope 1	0	0	0	0	0 ± 0
Sous-total		Scope 1					2015 ± 1148
#6	Emissions indirectes liées à l...	Scope 2					2844 ± 284
#7	Emissions indirectes liées à l...	Scope 2					2040 ± 612
Sous-total		Scope 2					4884 ± 896
#8	Emissions liées à l'énergie no...	Scope 3					1735 ± 408
#9	Achats de produits ou services	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#10	Immobilisations de biens	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#11	Déchets	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#12	Transport de marchandises amont	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#13	Déplacements professionnels	Scope 3					60626 ± 8658
#14	Actifs en leasing amont	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#15	Investissements	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#16	Transport de visiteurs et de c...	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#17	Transport de marchandises aval	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#18	Utilisation des produits vendus	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#19	Fin de vie de produits vendus	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#20	Franchise aval	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#21	Leasing aval	Scope 3					0 ± 0
#22	Déplacements domicile travail	Scope 3					28772 ± 17415
#23	Autres émissions indirectes	Scope 3					0 ± 0
Sous-total		Scope 3					91133 ± 26480
Total							98032 ± 28525

Figure 3: Illustration of a regulatory table obtained with the *GES 1point5* tool for a fictitious research lab, presenting the emissions distributed among the three scopes of the GHG Protocol standard. The translation to English is given in Table 2

Empreinte carbone	Emissions en kg eCO2	Part de l'empreinte totale	
Empreinte carbone des bâtiments	6354 ± 1084	6.48 %	
- Chauffage	2040 ± 612	2.08 %	
- Electricité	4111 ± 411	4.19 %	
- Gaz réfrigérants	203 ± 61	0.21 %	
Empreinte carbone des déplacements	91678 ± 27441	93.52 %	
- Déplacements domicile-travail	28772 ± 17415	29.35 %	
- Déplacements professionnels	62906 ± 10026	64.17 %	
- Les véhicules	2760 ± 1656	2.82 %	
- Les missions	60146 ± 8370	61.35 %	
Empreinte carbone totale	98032 ± 28525	100 %	

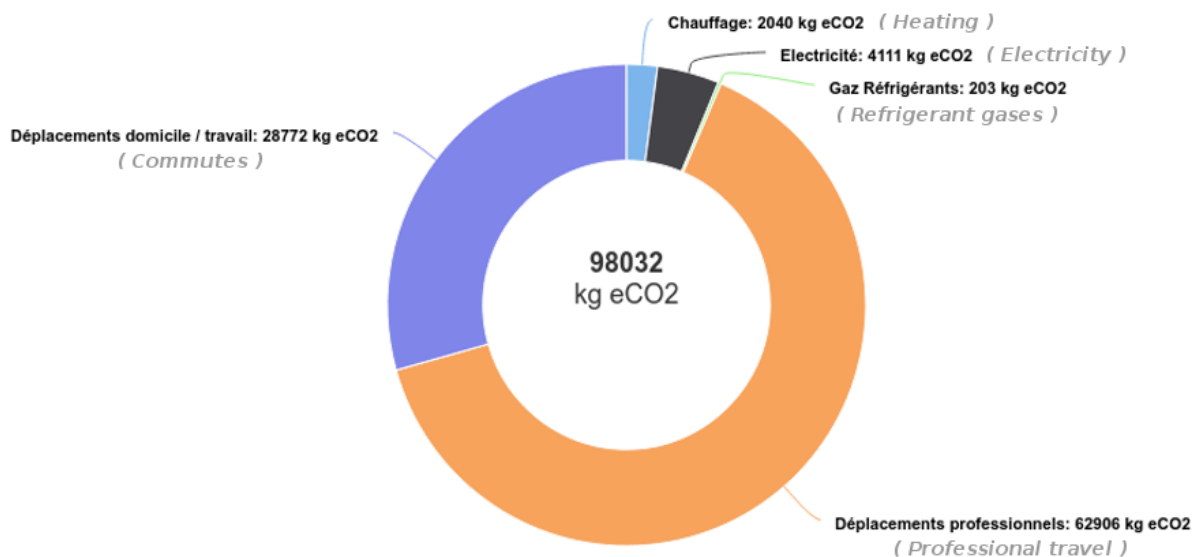


Figure 4: Illustration of the carbon footprint information provided as an output of *GES 1point5* : table (upper panel) and of the pie chart (lower panel), showing the distribution of emissions in kg CO₂e. Translation of the terms is provided in Table 3.

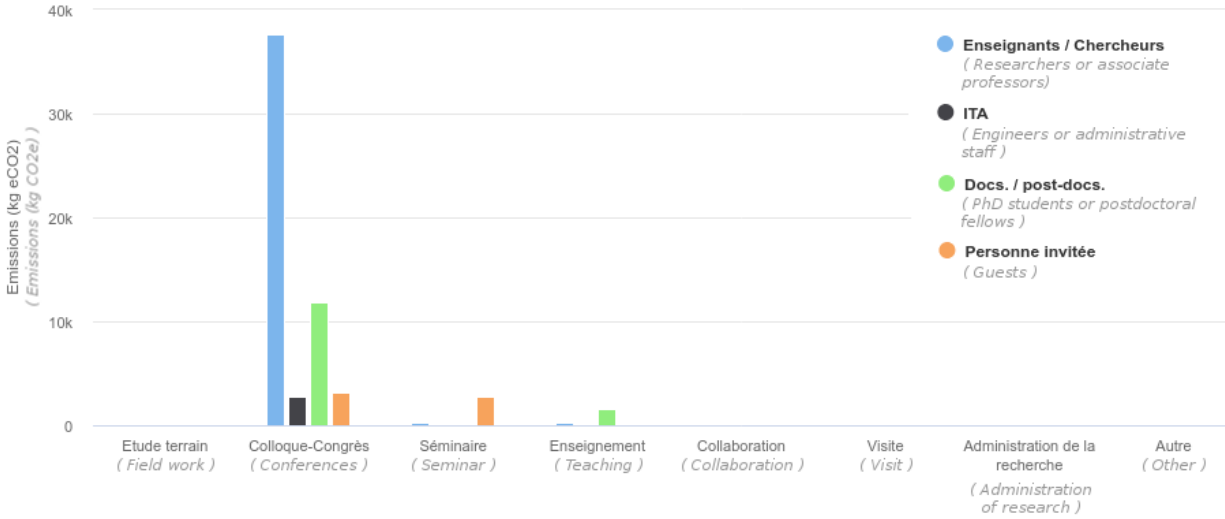


Figure 5: Illustrative distribution of the professional travel carbon footprint provided by *GES 1point5* according to travel purposes and agent status.

sources that are often critical in research labs. However, other potentially important emission sources need to be soon assessed, among which internal information technology (IT) emissions, and emissions linked to purchased goods.

The estimation of the carbon footprint of IT systems internal to the research labs will be developed in *GES 1point5* in future work. It will rely on the EcoDiag¹⁹ database that provides manufacturing and transportation emission factors for multiple types of IT devices. In this case, electricity consumption emissions will not be estimated as they are already included in the emissions of the labs' buildings .

The estimation of the carbon footprint of purchased goods is complex as emission factors do not exist for all the categories of products that research labs can purchase. For example, it is common to use specific chemical solvents in biology labs, with only very little information on the manufacturing and supply chains. Various methodologies are currently under study and *Labos 1point5* will thrive to consider the right trade-off between comprehensiveness and representativeness.

GES 1point5 will later on be complemented by the estimation of the GHG emissions

¹⁹<https://ecoinfo.cnrs.fr/ecodiag/>

from the use of observational and experimental infrastructures (e.g. particle accelerator, telescope).

7 Conclusion

The research sector must reduce the carbon footprint of its activities along with all other sectors, in order for France to reach the goal of the Paris Agreement and, more indirectly, to sustain the bond between science and society. A first step naturally pertains to estimating current emissions level. In this context, a standardized tool is essential as it paves the way for comparisons of carbon footprints, statistical analyses, fruitful dialogues, coordinated mitigation strategies and reporting of mitigation actions results in a consistent way.

As an open-source software, *GES 1point5* is freely accessible to any research lab in the world. Foreign research labs may have to adjust emission factors to their country when using the application, thus enabling comparisons between research labs worldwide. *GES 1point5* opens up a very broad range of international research perspectives and initiates a strategy to discuss on the best ways to reduce research emissions worldwide.

References

- Nature Astronomy. The climate issue. *Nature Astronomy*, 4:811, 2020. doi: 10.1038/s41550-020-01216-9.
- Diomidis Spinellis and Panos Louridas. The carbon footprint of conference papers. *PloS one*, 8(6):e66508, 2013.
- Helen E Fox, Peter Kareiva, Brian Silliman, Jessica Hitt, David A Lytle, Benjamin S Halpern, Christine V Hawkes, Joshua Lawler, Maile Neel, Julian D Olden, Martin A Schlaepfer, Katherine Smith, and Heather Tallis. Why do we fly? ecologists’ sins of emission. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 7(6):294–296, 2009. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1890/09.WB.019>. URL <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1890/09.WB.019>.
- D Grémillet. Paradox of flying to meetings to protect the environment. *Nature Correspondence*, 455:1175, 2008. doi: 10.1038/s41550-020-01216-9.
- Leonor Patricia Güereca, Nathalia Torres, and Adalberto Noyola. Carbon footprint as a basis for a cleaner research institute in mexico. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 47:396–403, 2013.
- Seth Wynes, Simon D Donner, Steuart Tannason, and Noni Nabors. Academic air travel has

- a limited influence on professional success. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 226:959–967, 2019.
- Sam Desiere. The carbon footprint of academic conferences: Evidence from the 14th eaae congress in slovenia. *EuroChoices*, 15(2):56–61, 2016.
- James T Stroud and Kenneth J Feeley. Responsible academia: optimizing conference locations to minimize greenhouse gas emissions. *Ecography*, 38(4):402–404, 2015.
- Milan Klöwer, Debbie Hopkins, Myles Allen, and James Higham. An analysis of ways to decarbonize conference travel after covid-19, 2020.
- Joachim Ciers, Aleksandra Mandic, Laszlo Daniel Toth, and Giel Op’t Veld. Carbon footprint of academic air travel: A case study in switzerland. *Sustainability*, 11(1):80, 2019.
- Wouter MJ Achten, Joana Almeida, and Bart Muys. Carbon footprint of science: More than flying. *Ecological indicators*, 34:352–355, 2013.
- Didier Barret. Estimating, monitoring and minimizing the travel footprint associated with the development of the athena x-ray integral field unit. *Experimental Astronomy*, pages 1–34, 2020.
- Ministère de l’environnement de l’énergie et de la mer MEEM. Méthode pour la réalisation des bilans d’émissions de ges, conformément à l’article l.229-25 du code de l’environnement, 2016.
- Association pour l’Avenir du Véhicule Electro-Mobile AVEM. Est-ce que le véhicule électrique est polluant ? <http://www.avem.fr/actualite-est-ce-que-le-vae-est-polluant-5861.html>, 2015.
- Arcadis. Extrait de l’étude portant sur l’impact environnemental des trottinettes électriques. Étude de cas dans le contexte parisien. <https://www.arcadis.com/media/4/9/7/%7B49782BE2-FC09-448D-8A79-EDDD02BB2D3D%7DExtrait-Etude-Trottinettes.pdf>, 2019.
- World Resources Institute WRI and World Business Councilfor Sustainable Development WBCSD. The greenhouse gas protocol, a corporate accounting and reporting standard. revised edition, 2004.

A Appendix tables

Table 2: Translation of the sources of emissions used in *GES 1point5* and presented in Figure 3. The three scopes correspond to those of the GHG protocol.

Scope 1

1	Émissions directes des sources fixes de combustion	Direct emissions from stationary combustion sources
2	Émissions directes des sources mobiles à moteur thermique	Direct emissions from mobile combustion sources
3	Emissions directes des procédés hors énergie	Direct emissions from non-energy processes
4	Émissions directes fugitives	Direct fugitive emissions
5	Emissions issues de la biomasse (sols et forêts)	Emissions from biomass (soils, forests)

Scope 2

6	Émissions indirectes liées à la consommation d'électricité	Indirect emissions from purchased electricity
7	Emissions indirectes liées à la consommation de vapeur, chaleur ou froid	Indirect emissions from steam, heating or cooling

Scope 3

8	Emissions liées à l'énergie non incluse dans les catégories "émissions directes de GES" et "émissions indirectes de GES associées à l'énergie"	Emissions linked to energy non included in the "Direct emissions" and "Indirect emissions associated with energy" categories
9	Achats de produits ou services	Purchased goods and services
10	Immobilisation des biens	Fixed assets
11	Déchets	Waste
12	Transport de marchandises amont	Transportation of goods upstream
13	Déplacements professionnels	Employee business travel
14	Actifs en leasing amont	Leased assets upstream
15	Investissements	Investments
16	Transports de visiteurs et de clients	Customer and visitor travel
17	Transport de marchandise aval	Transportation of goods downstream
18	Utilisation de produits vendus	Use of sold products
19	Fin de vie des produits vendus	End of life of sold products
20	Franchise aval	Franchises downstream
21	Leasing aval	Leased assets downstream
22	Déplacements domicile travail	Employee commuting
23	Autres émissions indirectes	Other indirect emissions

Table 3: Translation of the terms used in the carbon footprint table presented in Fig. 4

Carbon footprint	Emissions in kg CO ₂ e	Share of total footprint
Carbon footprint of the buildings		
- Heating		
- Electricity		
- Refrigerant gases		
Travel carbon footprint		
- Commutes		
- Vehicles		
- Professional travel		