

Paris climate talks cut back on hot air: report

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Excluding foreign travel, the near two-week COP 21 United Nations conference left a carbon footprint of 9,200 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)

Last year's climate conference in Paris, which yielded a long-awaited carbon-cutting pact, emitted fewer planet-warming greenhouse gases than many predecessor events, host France said Thursday.

Excluding foreign travel, the near two-week huddle left a carbon footprint of 9,200 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), chief event organiser Pierre-Henri Guignard told journalists in Paris.

This was equal to the [carbon footprint](#) of about 800 French people over a one-year period, and less than half the 21,000 tonnes organisers had expected.

"We went above and beyond what the United Nations expect of us," said Guignard.

The Paris event, dubbed COP21 for the 21st Conference of Parties, fared better than many of its predecessors, including COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, which failed in its mission to yield a global climate pact.

COP15 emitted an estimated 26,276 tCO₂e, COP17 in Durban in 2011 25,048 tCO₂e, and COP18 in Doha the following year 11,538 tCO₂e, according to UN estimates.

Paris' footprint grows to 43,000 tCO₂e with transport [emissions](#) for getting everyone to Paris, added Guignard.

Some 35,000 people were accredited as conference participants, with another 32,000 day visitors attending side events.

Like previous conference hosts, France intends to "offset" or cancel out emissions by financing carbon-reduction programmes in the developing world, at a price of about 10 euros (\$11) per tonne of CO₂e, Guignard said.

Much of the long-distance travel emissions had already been offset or cancelled out by delegates' countries of origin.

Guignard said France had "prevented" some 6,800 tCO₂e in emissions through projects that included issuing 26,000 free public transport cards to delegates, recycling 11 tonnes of paper and 20 tonnes of organic

waste, and issuing reusable coffee and water cups.

Under UN agreement, the host of the yearly climate COP ([conference](#) of parties) undertakes to make the event "climate neutral" by reducing emissions as much as possible.

The nations of the world agreed in Paris in December to limit average global warming to no more than two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels.

Countries submitted pledges to curb emissions from burning coal, oil and gas which are blamed for warming the planet—already estimated to be about 1.0 C hotter.

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