Energy and greenhouse gas (GHG)

Energy consumption and GHG footprint

The tables below illustrate the evolution of Bell's energy consumption and carbon footprint (GHG emissions) from 2019 to 2020.[1]

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

MWh equivalent, 2019, 2020

GRI 302-1

	2020		2019		INCREASE/ DECREASE
	MWH EQUIVALENT	% OF TOTAL	MWH EQUIVALENT	% OF TOTAL	
Fuel (Scope 1)	583,220	23%	615,981	23%	-5.3%
Electricity, heat, steam, and cooling (Scope 2)	1,969,933	77%	2,021,793	77%	-2.6%
Total	**2,553,153**	**100%**	**2,637,774**	**100%**	**-3.2%**

[1] For 2019, figures are based on data from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. For 2020, figures are based on data from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

GHG EMISSIONS

Tonnes of CO_2 equivalent, 2019, 2020[2]

	SCOPE DESCRIPTION	2020	2019	INCREASE/ DECREASE	
Scope 1	Direct GHG emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by Bell	142,996	148,889	-4.0%	GRI 305-1
Scope 2	Indirect GHG emissions associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam, and cooling	167,412	196,401	-14.8%	GRI 305-2
Scope 3	Other indirect GHG emissions (upstream and downstream)[3]	1,721,227	1,584,955	+8.6%	GRI 305-3
Total		2,031,635	1,930,245	+5.3%	

Explanations for variations from 2019 to 2020[4]

Compared with 2019, Bell's carbon footprint (GHG emissions) increased 101,390 tonnes of CO_2e (+5.3%). The increase is attributable to Scope 3 emissions, which were up 136,272 tonnes of CO_2e (+8.6%). This increase is mainly due to GHG emissions related to our purchased goods and services, which were up 123,370 tonnes of CO_2e (+8.5%). This is primarily due to a rise in spending for goods and services purchased from our suppliers, leading to higher GHG emissions.

Our GHG emissions from Scope 2 sources decreased 28,989 tonnes of CO_2e (-14.8%) compared with 2019. This decrease is mainly due to lower emission factors associated with electricity consumption thanks to cleaner energy sources.

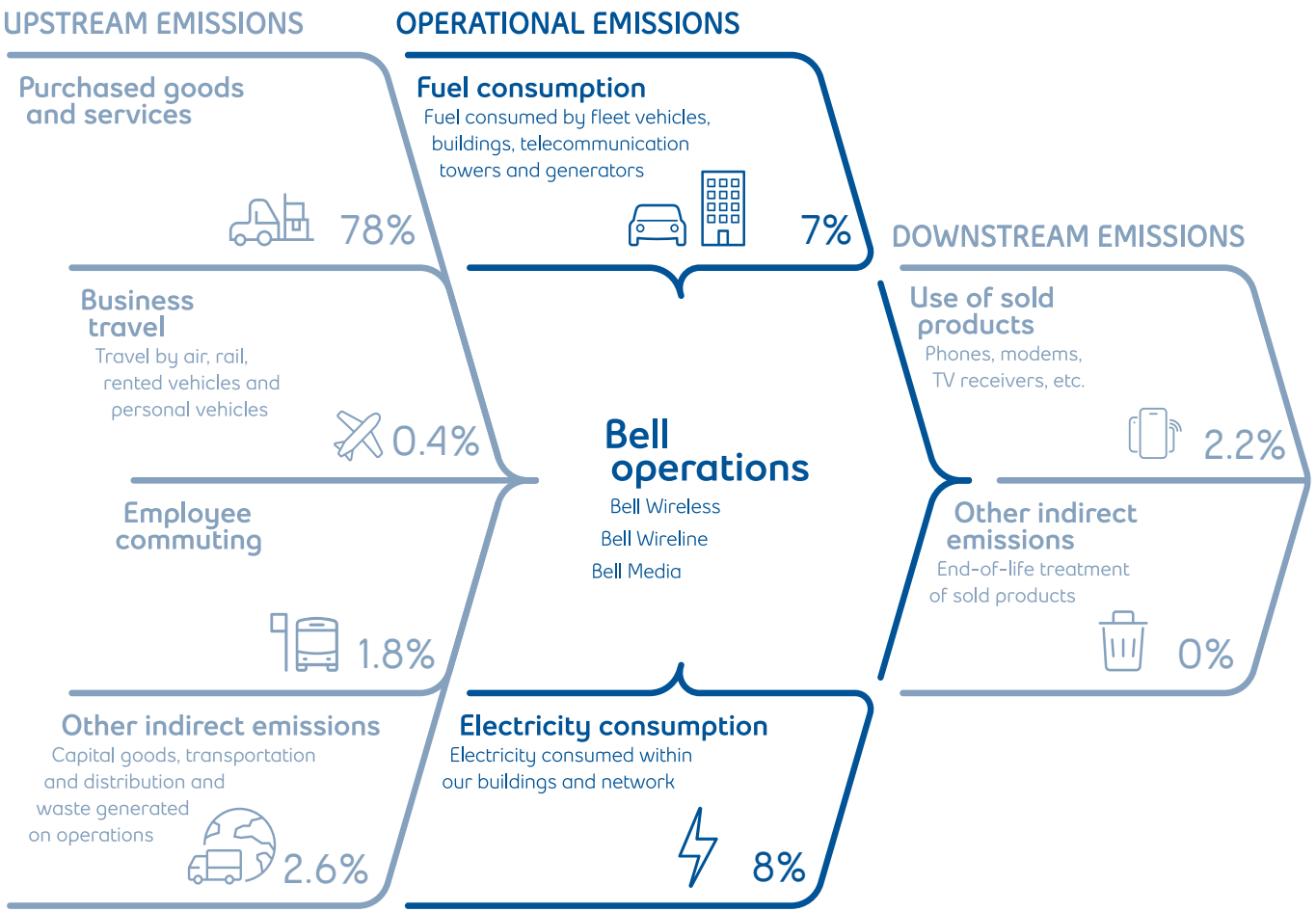
Our GHG emissions from Scope 1 sources decreased 5,893 tonnes of CO_2e (-4.0%) compared with 2019. This decrease is mainly due to less distance travel by our fleet.

[2] PwC provided limited assurance for Scope 1, Scope 2 and part of Scope 3 GHG emissions (indirect emissions related to Bell business travel activities). Please see **PwC's assurance statement**

[3] Scope 3 include GHG emissions related to purchased goods and services, business travel, employee commuting, capital goods, transportation and distribution, waste generated in operations, use of sold products and end-of-life treatment of sold products.

[4] For 2019, figures are based on energy consumption data from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. For 2020, figures are based on energy consumption data from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Sources of all GHG emissions (%)



Energy and GHG reductions

Although we have already taken advantage of the biggest savings opportunities, our Real Estate, Media, IT, Network, Mobility, Northwestel and Fleet teams continue to look for ways to make Bell even more energy efficient. The tables below illustrate how we achieved electricity and fuel savings last year, which helped reduce associated GHG emissions.

ELECTRICITY SAVINGS

	2020 ELECTRICITY SAVINGS INITIATIVES	COST SAVINGS ($ 000)	ELECTRICITY SAVINGS (GWH)
Buildings	• Add free cooling systems to reduce the need for mechanical cooling • Implement conversions to LED lighting • Re-commission HVAC and buildings controls • Obtain provincial utility subsidies • Improve management of energy demands resulting in reduced electricity fees	5,306	8.44
Networks	• De-power DMS switch • Modernize rectifiers • De-power or modernize legacy equipment	981	8.05
IT	• Consolidate, optimize and virtualize servers	230	2.68
Bell Mobility Network	• Implement energy saving software features	1,271	8.17
TOTAL SAVINGS		**7,788**	**27.34**

FUEL SAVINGS

	2020 FUEL SAVINGS INITIATIVES	COST SAVINGS ($ 000)	FUEL SAVINGS (LITRES)
Vehicle fleet	• Replace older vehicles with new, more fuel-efficient models	414	382,200
	• Use electric and hybrid vehicles, which are much more fuel-efficient than equivalent gas only vehicles	7	6,200
	• Reduce vehicles count	169	156,600
TOTAL SAVINGS		**590**	**545,000**

GRI 305-5

GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION

EMISSIONS

2020 ENERGY SAVINGS INITIATIVES	GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION (TONNES OF CO_2 EQUIVALENT)
Electricity	2,360
Fuel	1,270
TOTAL GHG EMISSIONS REDUCED IN PERIOD	**3,630**

Renewable energy

Nearly 58%[5] of the 1,936,097 MWh of electricity we consumed in 2020[6] was from renewable sources, such as water, wind, tides and the sun. Of this, 88% was from hydro sources.

Bell's network

Bell is committed to maintain its current renewable energy generation and to continue exploring the potential to reduce GHG emissions of our cell sites in remote areas. As such, we have recently partnered with the Interdisciplinary Institute for Technological Innovation (3IT) and the Nanotechnologies and Nanosystems Laboratory (LN2) from Université de Sherbrooke, and the company Stace to provide solar-powered cell sites to address the need for cellular coverage in and around the environmentally-sensitive La Vérendrye Wildlife Reserve in Québec.

To maintain the service in remote areas, cell sites rely on diesel-powered generators, which run fulltime and emit important amounts of GHG emissions and other pollutants. By installing photovoltaic panels to generate electricity and stocking surplus in batteries, generator runtime–and thus fuel consumption–is reduced significantly.

The Bell network generated 246,500 kWh of renewable energy in 2020 from solar and wind power sources.

In the Northwest Territories, our 9 photovoltaic and diesel hybrid power systems in remote sites and 1 photovoltaic power system in Whitehorse, generate approximately 130,000 kWh of renewable energy every year and save approximately 27,000 litres of diesel, the equivalent of 73 tonnes per year of CO_2.

In Ontario, our wind and solar power technologies installed at 12 remote cell sites generated 48,500 kWh of renewable energy in 2020 while in the Atlantic region; our solar arrays generated 68,000 kWh of renewable energy at 10 of our sites.

Over the years, our solar modernization program has significantly improved network reliability, reduced generator run time, and cut energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

5 Calculation based on data for 2017 from Electricity in Canada: Summary and Intensity Tables of the **Canadian National Inventory Report (1990–2018)**, published April 14, 2020

6 Based on energy consumption data from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Street furniture

The energy consumption of Astral Out-of-Home street furniture is primarily attributed to lighting for signs, ads, and transit shelters. Since 2007, Astral Out-of-Home has installed 2,593 photovoltaic systems in transit shelters.

As a result, over 3.5 million kWh of electricity was saved in 2020, the equivalent of 71 tonnes of CO_2e.

To the extent this information sheet contains forward-looking statements including, without limitation, outlooks, plans, objectives, strategic priorities, commitments, undertakings and other statements that do not refer to historical facts, these statements are not guarantees of future performance or events, and we caution you against relying on any of these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties and are based on assumptions that give rise to the possibility that actual results or events could differ materially from our expectations expressed in, or implied by, such forward-looking statements. Refer to BCE Inc.'s most recent annual management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), as updated in BCE Inc.'s subsequent quarterly MD&As, for further information on such risks, uncertainties and assumptions. BCE Inc.'s MD&As are available on its website at bce.ca, on SEDAR at sedar.com and on EDGAR at sec.gov.