

Environmental Sustainability in Finnish Public Libraries

Librarys Carbon Footprint
2019 and 2022

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[Green Library | Libraries.fi](https://www.libraries.fi)



Two National Projects to Measure Public Library's Carbon Footprint

13 libraries of different sizes from different parts of Finland participated in the carbon measurements in 2020 (data 2019).

In 2023 (data 2022), there were 14 libraries.

The work consisted of data collection in a library together with joint workshops, also consultations by sustainable experts were organized to support the work.

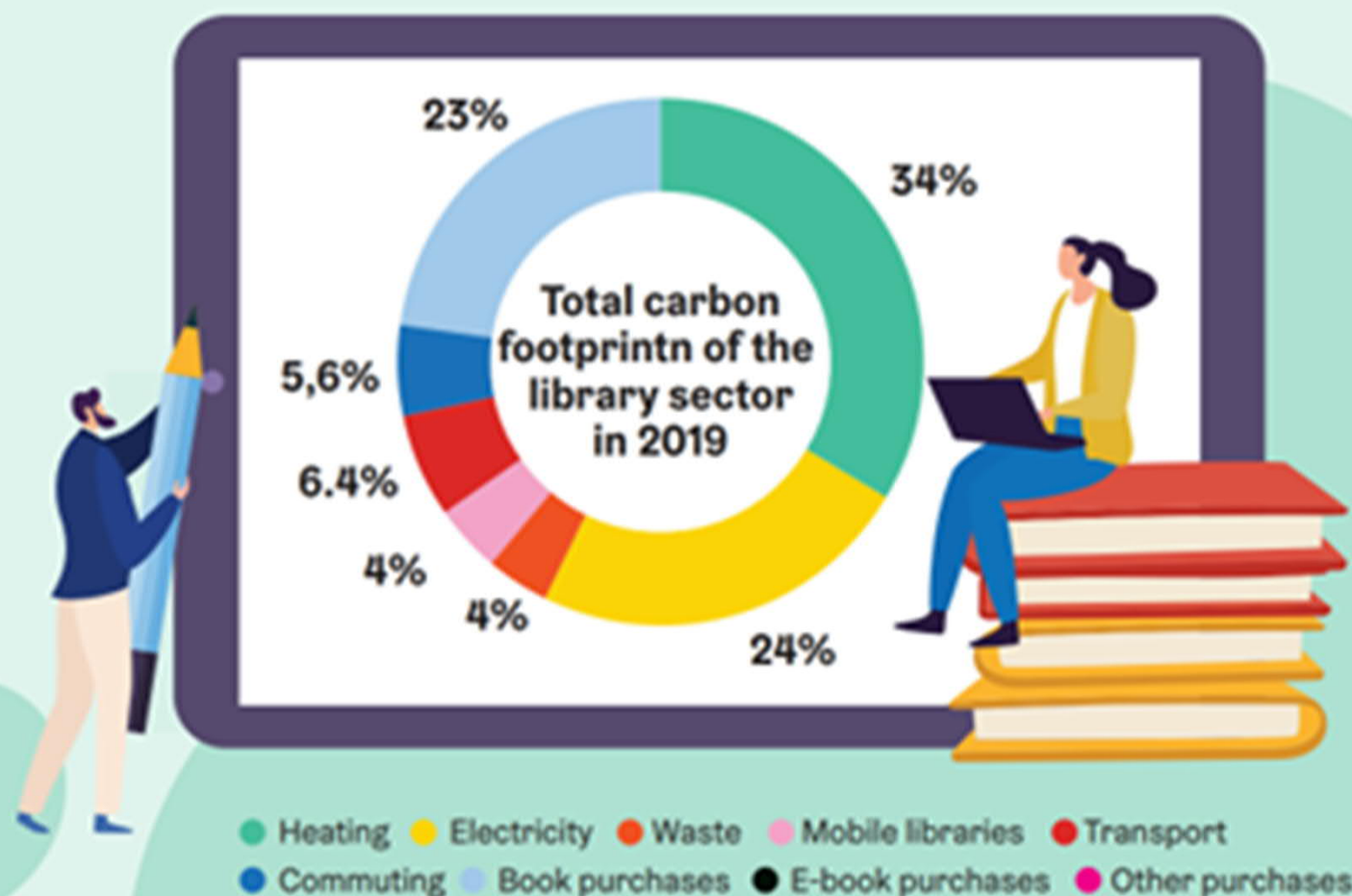


The carbon footprint of your library

The carbon footprint of your library is very moderate, on average 32 tonnes of CO₂e – this corresponds to the annual emissions of 3130 Finns.

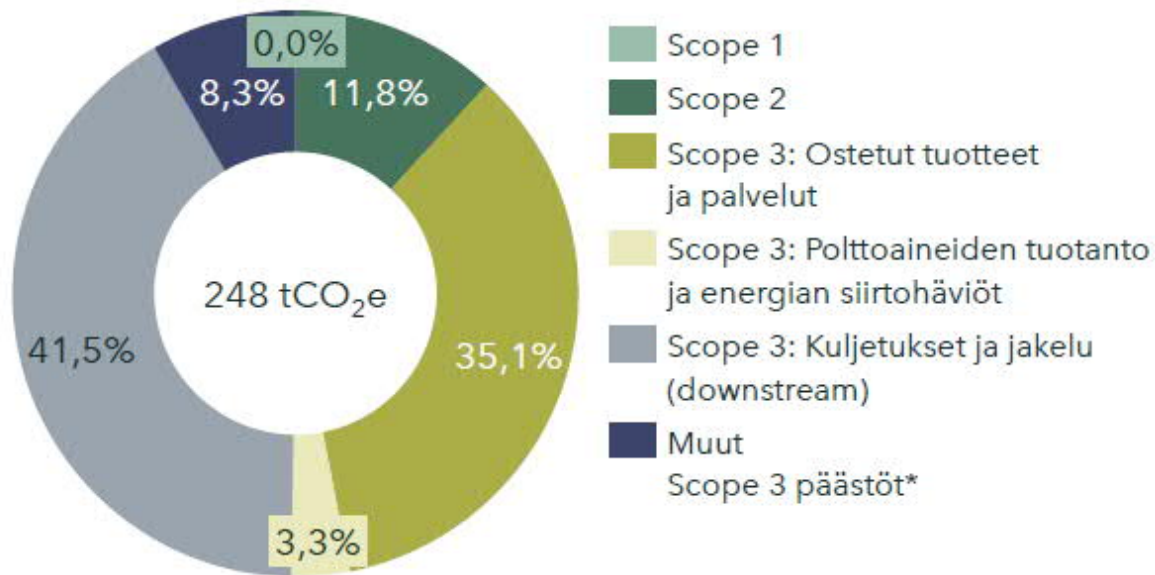
The majority of library emissions arise from the building itself and its daily activities: heating, electricity and waste management account for more than 60 per cent of all library emissions.

In other respects, library activities are environmentally friendly: the share of material and other purchases is approximately 25% of the emissions. Material transportation, mobile libraries and commuting account for 16% of the emissions.



Preliminary Results of 2022

Esimerkkinä Valkeakosken kirjaston päästöt 2022



All library functions together gives the total national carbon footprint of 94 942 tCO₂e.

Calculations included 716 libraries and 128 mobile library.


The total footprint corresponds to the annual carbon footprint of 9 218 average Finn.

Emissions (tCO2e)

2019 : 32

2022 : 94 942





What is the big
difference between
2019 and 2022?

Carbon footprint – some remarks

Energy consumption (heating & electricity) is (one of) the main source for emissions – but facilities are not under libraries' responsibility (property sectors).

→ cutting the emissions are tied to decisions made by the city = interrelatedness – acting in a network!

One must select what is taken into the calculations: *available* and *relevant, measurable* data. What is included and what is excluded?

= sufficiently accurate information – if no exact data attainable.



2019: No accurate data available for the emissions of servers or data transfer – or even how these should be calculated.
Platform services – databases (etc.) shared by many operators
ICT devices' life spin

2022: Scope 3: ICT, cleaning, and office services make a remarkable percentage of emissions

12 % in small library

27 % in big libraries

→ The percentage for scope 2 "heating and electricity" decreases from 60 %

to 58 % in small libraries ja 11 % in big libraries



Some remarks on carbon footprint

It makes a real difference what one includes in (and excludes from) the carbon footprint measurements.

- It is impossible to compare different carbon footprint measurements.
- + Users' little deeds may have a great impact on organizations carbon footprint.



Kiitos!
Tack!
Takk skal du ha!
Pakka þér fyrir!
Tak skal du have!

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