



PLANET GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

| acting on climate change

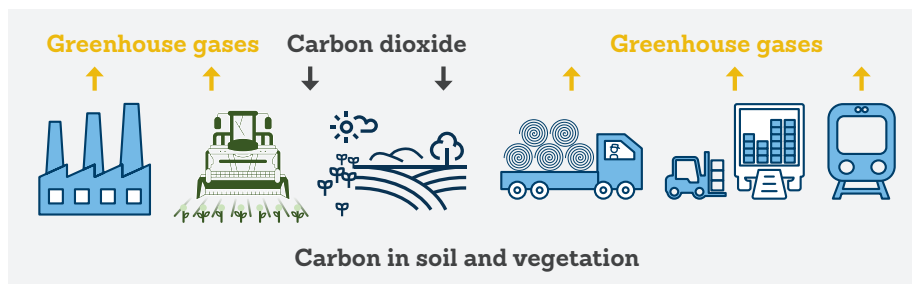


OUR AMBITION is to contribute to the Paris Agreement’s aim of a climate neutral world. This would mean reducing the emissions released in cotton production while sustaining carbon in the soil and vegetation on cotton farms. Research is being undertaken to determine how to do this. This aligns to UN Sustainable Development Goal 13: take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



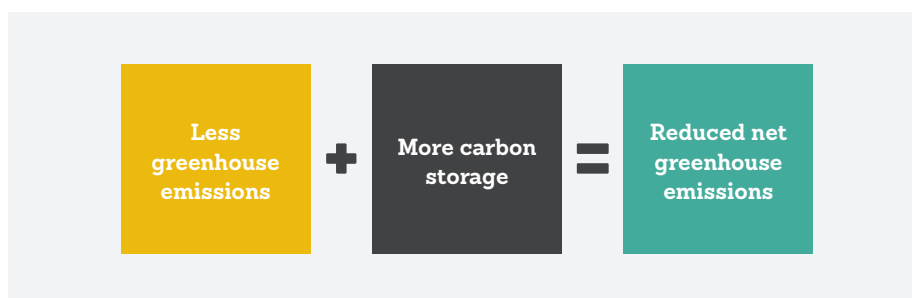
Cotton production releases greenhouse gas emissions.

The production of cotton creates greenhouse gases. Cotton is estimated to emit about 0.2 per cent of Australia’s annual greenhouse emissions. In the five years to 2019 the amount of emissions per bale increased by 12.5 per cent; however, because less bales were grown in the same period, the industry’s total greenhouse emissions actually reduced by 10 per cent.



Cotton farms store carbon.

Vegetation on cotton farms naturally removes (sequesters) carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. CO₂ can be stored as carbon in vegetation, and in soil.



The cotton industry aims to reduce greenhouse emissions and increase carbon storage.

Reducing net greenhouse gas emissions makes a positive contribution to climate change and can also benefit cotton growers. For example, using less fuel and fertiliser can save money. Plus carbon-rich soil organic matter and native vegetation can support more fertile soil and habitat for beneficial insects that can help control cotton pests.

Cotton growers often produce a range of food, fibre and foliage commodities on their farm. The Australian cotton and other agriculture industries are currently researching how to accurately account for all emissions and sequestration on farms.

OUR TARGET will be developed when this methodology is agreed and baselines are assessed. This is expected by 2022. Until then, work is continuing to reduce the industry’s greenhouse emissions.

OUR PATHWAY TO ACHIEVE THE TARGET IS:

1. Improve nitrogen use efficiency
2. Reduce energy emissions from fuel and electricity use
3. Increase carbon sequestration and storage on farms.