



---

# PRIMERA'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

Results 2019

---

Primera continues to promote efforts to make ourselves a greener company, in not only the services we provide but also in the way we conduct and maintain our business.

For our most recent analysis (measuring the 2018 calendar year) we have added our newest office locations – Chadds Ford, PA and Tysons Corner, VA – to the list, which includes Chicago and Lisle, IL and Munster, IN. As in previous years, we selected the following sources to measure our carbon emissions: office electricity usage, paper usage, water usage, and employee commutes. These sources were carefully chosen because they are the main activities and consumables that we have direct control over. Space heating, for example, is something Primera cannot control, nor are our offices set up to measure it. The following results are based on overall consumption in 2018.

## Results

Based on our utility bills, restroom usage estimates, and office paper orders (including all printers, copiers, and plotters), we estimated the consumption of electricity, water, and paper. To estimate the carbon emissions from our commutes, we required input from all employees via a survey. Based on this data, we found that our annual carbon emissions by source are as follows:

ANNUAL CARBON EMISSIONS (TONS CO <sub>2</sub> /YEAR)	CHICAGO	LISLE	MUNSTER	CHADDS FORD	TYSONS CORNER	FIELD
Employee Commute	122	255	11.6	36.5	12.7	96.5
Electricity Usage	104	105	20.9	0.85	0.67	NA
Paper Usage	14.1	19.6	0.83	0.01	0.01	NA
Water Usage	0.097	0.101	0.007	0.010	0.003	NA
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>96.5</b>
No. of Full-Time Employees*	85	88	3	8	4	24
Per Person Annual Carbon Emissions	2.83	4.31	11.2	4.68	3.36	6.65

\*As of December 31, 2018

The findings were similar to what was reported in previous years. By far the largest contribution to our carbon footprint comes from our daily commutes and the mode(s) of transportation used. Electricity and paper usage also contribute, but water use has a miniscule impact. Primera’s total carbon emissions for 2018 are **801 tons CO<sub>2</sub>**. This translates to about **3.78 tons CO<sub>2</sub> per year per employee**.

**801 TONS CO<sub>2</sub> =  
3.78 TONS CO<sub>2</sub> PER YEAR PER EMPLOYEE.**

This is the first year of carbon emission results for our Chadds Ford and Tysons Corner offices and the data will only serve as a benchmark for now. Because Chicago is centrally located near several public transportation modes, whereas the other office locations lack convenient public transport options, the per capita carbon emissions are lower compared to the other offices. It should be noted that the Munster results are relatively high on a per employee basis because of the high emission rate for the electric utility (NIPSCO – 2,117 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh) which was more than double Chicago’s (ComEd – 924 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh) and triple Chadds Ford (PECO – 762 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh) and Tysons Corner (Dominion – 647 lb CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh).



# What Does It All Mean?

As we began to attempt to put this data into some sort of reportable format, we quickly realized how difficult it was to start making comparisons or even start showing trends. Even with Chicago having completed four reporting periods, the trends are not easy to spot, and the obvious realization becomes that the Chicago office of 2009 or the Lisle office of 2012 is not the Chicago or Lisle offices of 2018. This is most certainly true of Lisle that went from an office with a few part-timers in 2009 to 48 employees in 2012 to 121 in 2015 and down to 88 in 2018. It is also likely that it is too early to observe any trends for Munster and the Field employees after two reporting periods.

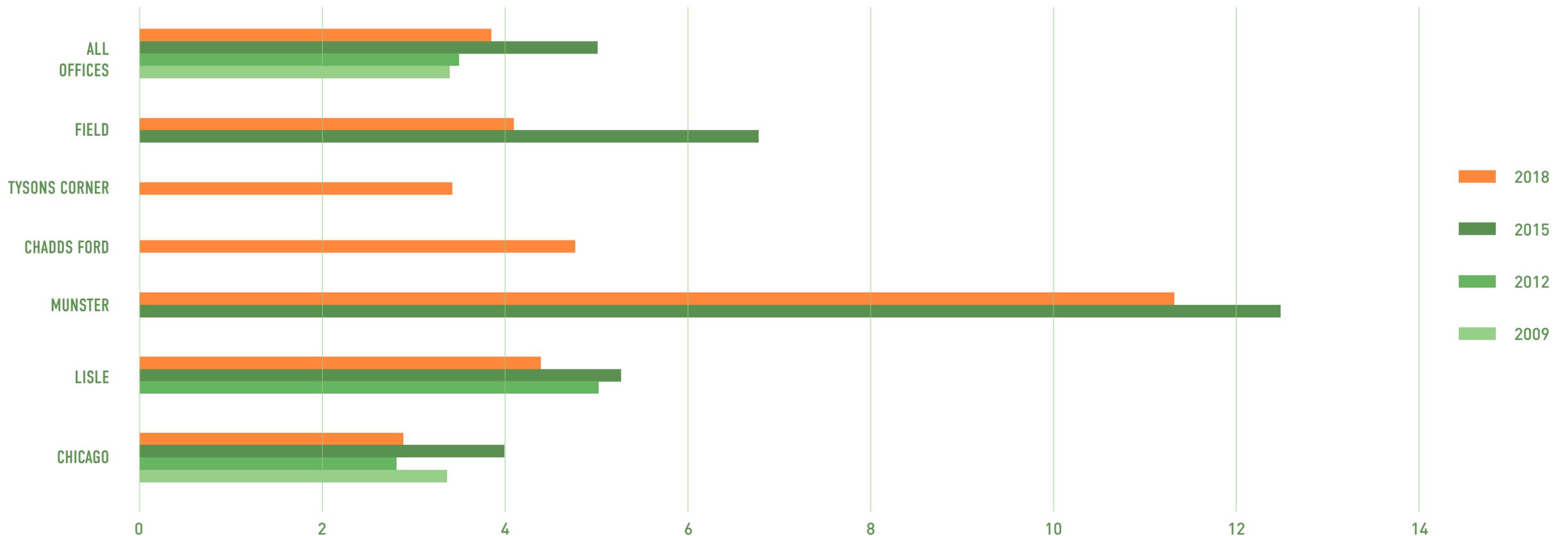
Because Chadds Ford and Tysons Corner are shared/communal office environments, we have the added variable of how to define utility and paper usage in these types of office spaces.

To eliminate or minimize some of the variability between office spaces, we looked at our carbon footprint on a per capita (per employee) basis. Below are the historical data for Primera broken down by each office showing the annual carbon emissions per employee for each of the reporting periods for which data was collected:

Using a per employee carbon footprint helps eliminate some of the variability due to the number of employees at any given office for any given year. If we look at Primera's overall historical carbon emissions by employee, we see that our annual per employee carbon footprint was between 3.3 and 3.8 tons CO<sub>2</sub>. For 2015, that carbon footprint jumped to 4.9 tons CO<sub>2</sub> but that was likely due to the addition of Munster and field employees in this reporting period, and the large number of employees working in Lisle (121 employees). We continue to see that the impact of our daily commutes on our carbon footprint tends to be the biggest carbon emission source, but it is

also the one we have most control over. The Chicago carbon footprint is lower than any of the other offices, as expected, due to the availability of mass transit options.

## ANNUAL CARBON EMISSIONS PER EMPLOYEE (TONS CO<sub>2</sub>)



# It's All About the Commute

## OTHER INTERESTING FINDINGS REGARDING PRIMERA EMPLOYEE COMMUTES:

- The total weekly miles travelled by Primera is 30,571 miles. On an annual basis that is a company total of approximately 1.5 million miles, or 62 trips around the equator.
- The average weekly commute per person was 119, 147, 182, 217, 150, and 193 miles for Chicago, Lisle, Munster, Chadds Ford, Tysons Corner, and field personnel, respectively.
- In Chicago, the primary transportation mode is Metra with 39% of employees using it as their primary mode of transport. In Lisle, Munster, Chadds Ford, and Tysons Corner, personal vehicle usage is the primary mode of transportation.
- The portion of carbon emissions due to commuting is 67% out of the total carbon emissions for the company.

We were surprised to discover how large an impact employee commutes have on the carbon footprint of the company when we first did this exercise in 2009 (approximately two-thirds of the total carbon emissions). This year continues to emphasize the importance of alternative and public transportation methods in reducing our carbon emissions, especially given our growth on the east coast. Primera provides mass transit subsidies to employees and the opportunity to buy transit tickets on a pre-tax basis. We encourage employees to be mindful of their commuting habits. Even at the offices not well-served by public transit, we hope that alternate methods, such as carpooling, can be attempted where possible.

# Random Factoids

## OTHER INTERESTING FACTS FOR 2018:

- The total area of office paper used by Primera is 34 acres, enough to cover an area equal to 26 football fields.
- Primera used 473 megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity in 2018.
- In 2015, 68% of the overall company commute miles were by gasoline-powered vehicles. This decreased slightly to 63% in 2018. A good showing given the growth in the east coast.
- Primera used enough electricity to power 46 average single-family U.S. homes.
- On a weekly basis, Primera employees commute 548 miles on average by foot or cycling - kudos to those who use these carbon-free transportation modes!

