We are pleased to issue our **second** report presenting the carbon footprints of our television productions completed in the 2023-24 fiscal year. This report covers a total of 46 in-house and independent productions (compared to 32 in last year's carbon footprint report). While our first report established benchmarks for the French-Canadian television industry, this second report includes **43% more** productions than in 2022-23 and provides a **more comprehensive overview** of carbon emissions related to French-Canadian television production.

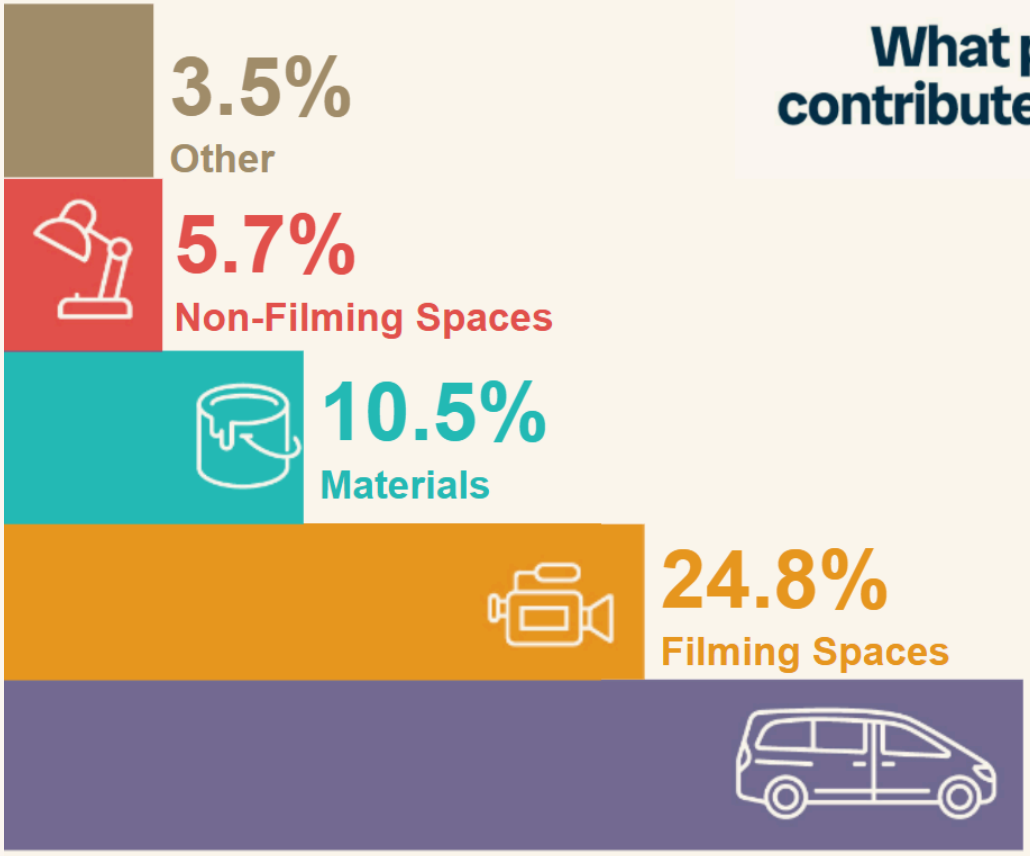
Based on the calculation of their carbon footprints with the albert tool, our 2023-24 productions have emitted an **average of 2.6 tonnes of CO_2e/hr,** compared to 1 tonne in 2022-23. This increase can be attributed to a change in the types of productions footprinted, with **drama productions (which is the highest-emitting genre) accounting for 41% of the mix** in 2023-24, compared to 11% last year. Although the increase may at first seem substantial, it is less than the international average as determined by albert in their 2023 report (16.6 tonnes of CO_2e/hr).

In light of the above, while the aggregate data cannot be directly compared between the two years, it is possible to compare the changes in the carbon footprint for a specific genre. Accordingly, we are happy to report that, this year, the **average CO_2e/hour declined for three of the four TV genres** highlighted in this report: drama (9.02 versus 11.49 in 2022-23), kids' and youth (3.05 versus 8.64 in 2022-23) and current affairs (1.49 versus 1.82 in 2022-23). In terms of production activities, the **top three** that generate the most carbon for all genres remain **travel** and **transport**, **materials** and **energy** (filming and non-filming spaces).

Naturally, every production is unique, making it difficult to compare carbon footprints across different productions. It is worth specifying that the purpose of the albert calculator is not so much to provide a completely accurate calculation of the carbon impact but to raise awareness among production teams

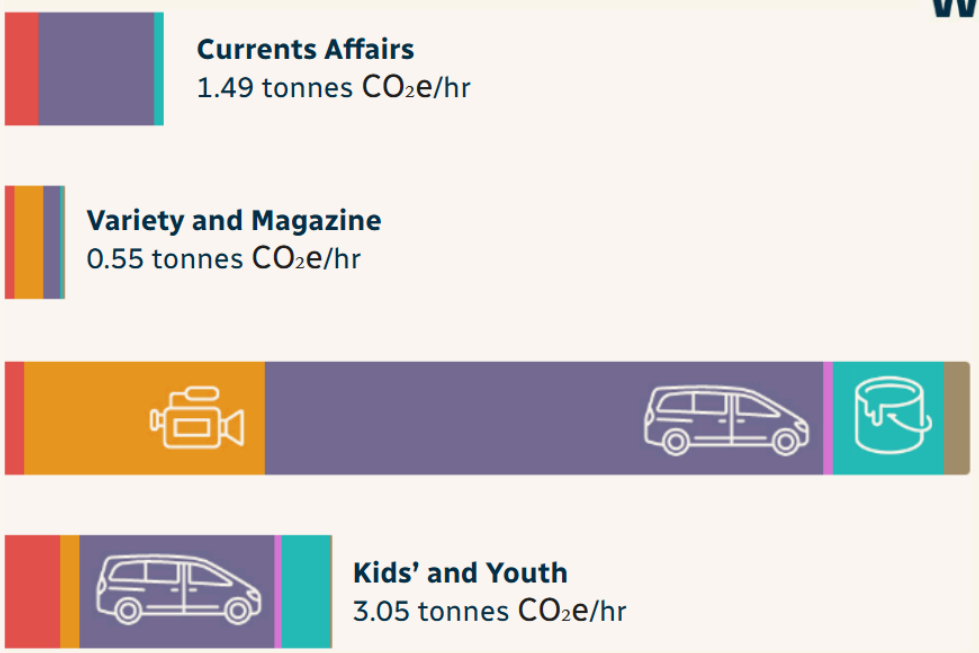
and encourage them to implement environmentally sustainable practices. That said, the findings of this report can still provide a starting point for developing solutions that enable the industry to reduce its environmental impact.

What production activities contribute most to emissions?



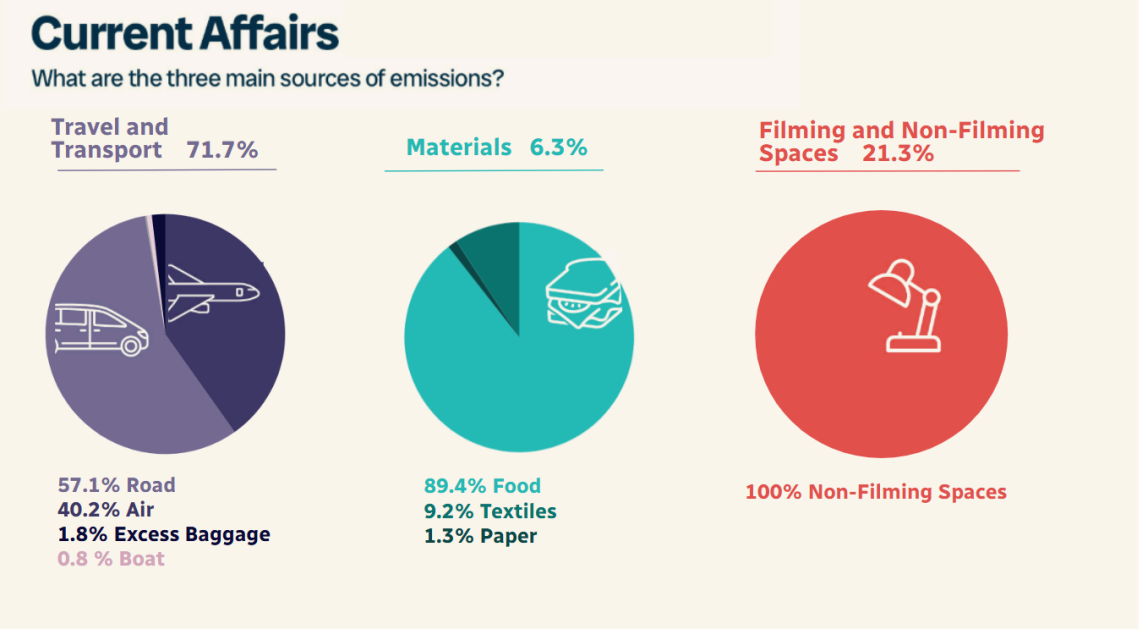
What TV genres contribute most to emissions?

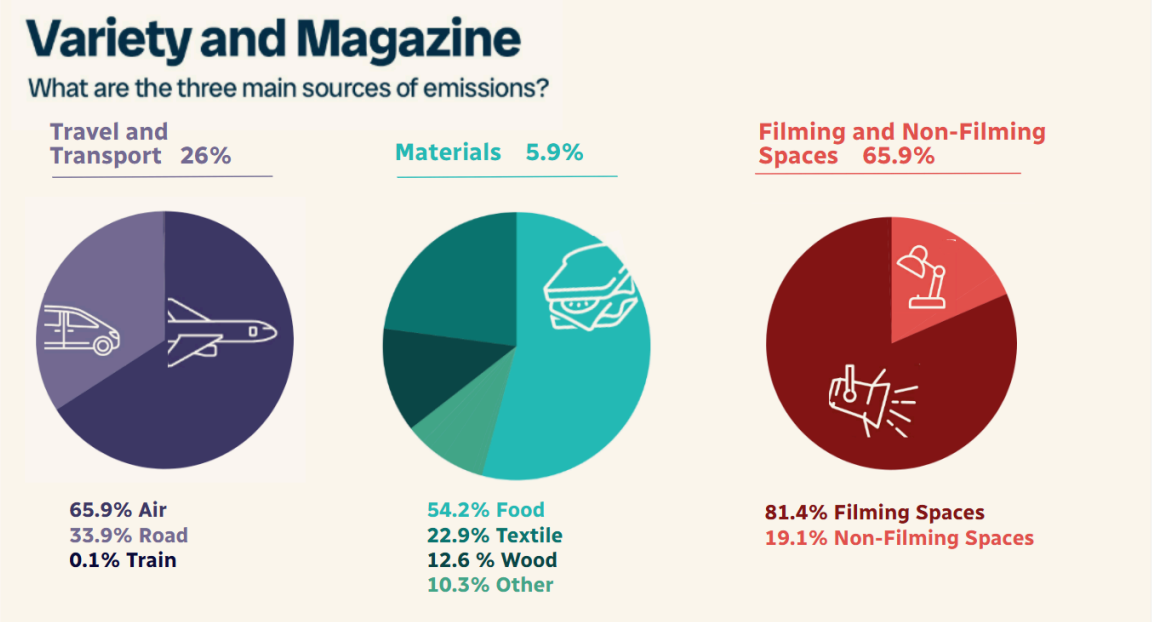
Average CO_2e/hour



Travel and Transport | Filming Spaces | Non-Filming Spaces | Materials | Disposal | Accommodation

Detailed Carbon Impact by Production Genre

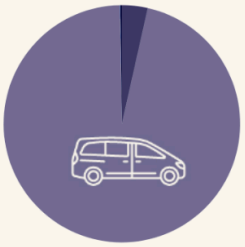




Drama

What are the three main sources of emissions?

Travel and Transport 57.8%



96.8% Road
2.9% Air
0.2% Excess Baggage

Materials 11.3%

77% Food
11.3% Textiles
4.1% Wood
3.3% Plastic
4.3% Other

Filming and Non-Filming Spaces 26.9%

93.4% Filming Spaces
6.6% Non-Filming Spaces

Kids' and Youth

What are the three main sources of emissions?

Travel and Transport 59.8%

75.5% Road
23.5% Air
1% Train

Materials 14.4%

93.5% Food
2.6% Metal
1.6% Textiles
2.3% Other

Filming and Non-Filming Spaces 22.7%

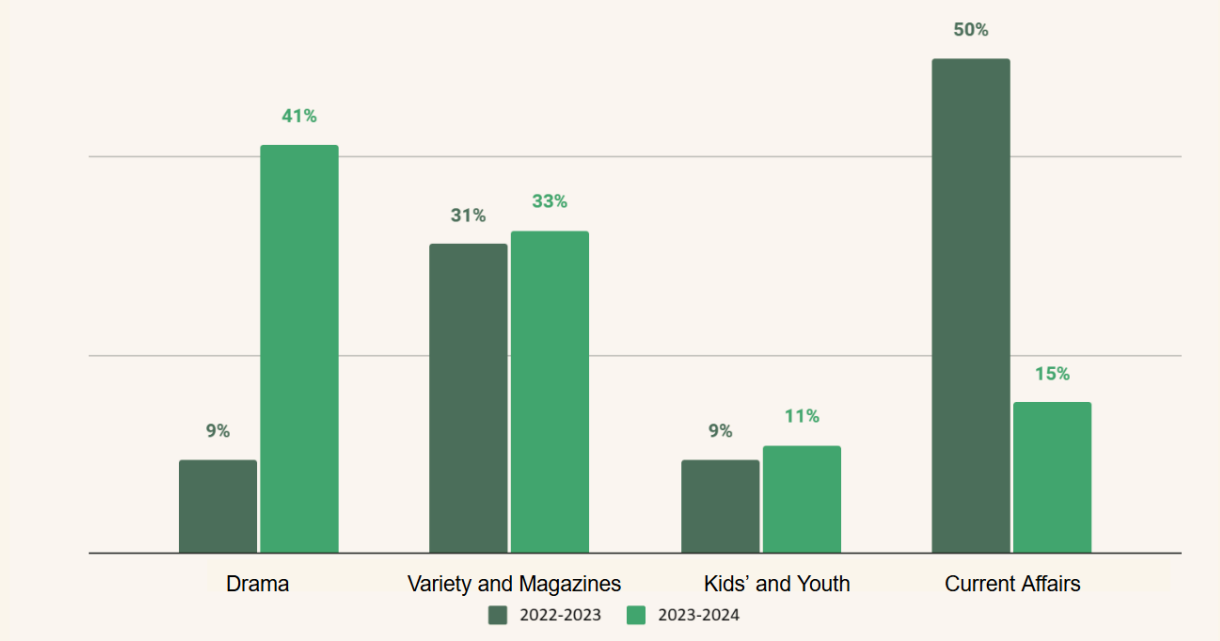
35.5% Filming Spaces
64.5% Non-Filming Spaces

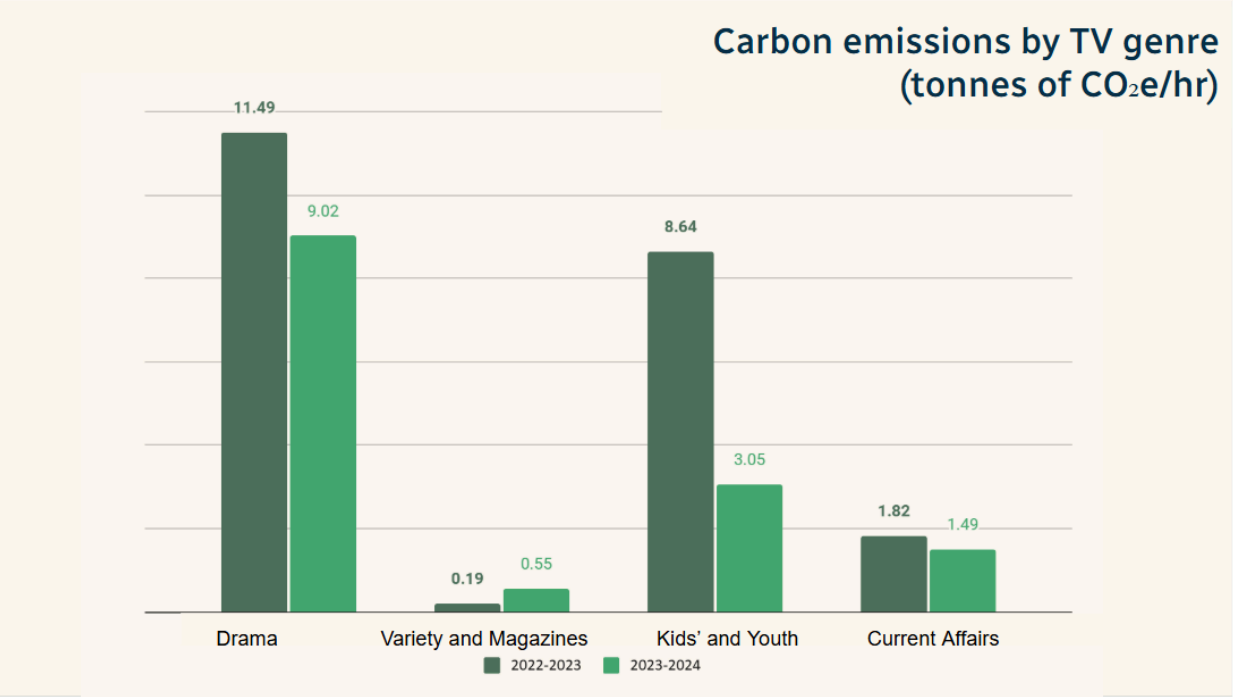
Conclusions and Recommendations

As explained in the introduction, the types of productions footprinted (and, more specifically, the proportion of drama productions) directly impacts the average number of tonnes of CO_2 equivalent per production hour. Carbon footprint trends between years should therefore be analyzed within the same genre rather than across all productions using the albert toolkit.

We find it very encouraging that the average CO2e/hour is lower than last year for drama, kids/youth and current affairs genres. Although we remain cautious in drawing conclusions about this improvement, we are optimistic about the results — together with the higher number of our productions that have been certified by Rolling Green — and we interpret this as a willingness by the industry to transition to more sustainable productions. Nonetheless we recognize that there is still much more to be done, and Radio-Canada is committed to continuing to play a pioneering role by raising awareness across production teams and supporting them in the development of more sustainable production methods and green action plans.

Types of footprinted productions (in %)





Travel and Transport (55.4% of total emissions)

As was reported in our previous report, the biggest carbon emitters in 2023-24 remain travel and transport. Within that category, air transport generated 11.3% of carbon emissions, whereas ground transport accounted for 88.2%. As a whole, travel and transport-related emissions were down 6.6% from 2022-23 because there were fewer overseas productions.

The following are some ways to reduce these emissions:

- Avoid travelling by air as much as possible.
- If possible, prioritize electric, hybrid or plug-in hybrid vehicles.
- Cut down on travel, such as by designing the itinerary to avoid detours and unnecessary return trips.
- Do not leave vehicles idling.

Filming Spaces (24.8% of total emissions)

Carbon emissions related to energy consumption in filming spaces climbed 18.8% from last year. This increase can be attributed to the higher number of drama productions covered by this report as compared to 2022-23. Given that diesel generators are still widely used for on-location shoots, drama content accounted for a major share of the carbon footprint related to energy consumption in filming spaces.

The following are some ways to reduce these emissions:

- Connect to the electrical grid rather than use generators (check with Hydro-Québec or other utility supplier whether temporary service agreements can be negotiated for long stays on a single site).
- If you must use a generator, choose one that is powered by a renewable energy source (such as an electric generator) when available. If such a generator is not available in your area, try to make your suppliers aware of the issue.
- Use LED lighting wherever possible.

Materials (10.5% of total emissions)

Materials-related carbon emissions were 3.5% lower than the year prior. Food accounts for the largest share of emissions in this category. In 2023-24, food represented 77.5% of materials-related carbon emissions (compared to 64.3% in 2022-23). Although emissions related to textiles declined in 2023-24, they were the second-largest contributor, generating 11.2% of our materials-related carbon emissions.

The following are some ways to reduce these emissions:

- Choose a caterer with sustainable practices.
- Offer vegetarian options and reduce meat consumption (for example, meals containing beef contribute up to 20 times more emissions and biodiversity harm than vegetarian and vegan meals).
- Sort waste at the source and use composting services.
- Apply the 5R approach (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose)

For more information about other steps you can take to lower the carbon footprint of TV productions, please refer to the resources mentioned on our site (French only). The earlier you start thinking about those steps at the project development stage, the easier it will be to take actions that reduce the environmental impact of our productions.

METHODOLOGY

This report was generated using data supplied by the 46 productions that completed albert carbon footprint reports for the 2023-24 financial year. An albert carbon footprint is defined as a carbon footprint completed using the albert carbon calculator by a production crew to the best of its knowledge, which footprint is thereafter validated and approved by albert. Radio-Canada does not verify the accuracy of the information provided as part of this report and such information is not audited. For information on how the albert carbon calculator determines carbon emissions associated with each production activity, click here for the ***albert methodology****. It should also be noted that in December 2023, albert adjusted how activities are categorized during data entry. This report*

includes productions that did their calculations before and after that adjustment was made. The seven initial categories were grouped under three major themes (Energy, Materials & Disposal, and Travel & Accommodations). The most significant impact in the results was to include post-production in Energy for non-filming spaces.

WORKING-FROM-HOME DISCREPANCY

Energy coefficients associated with working from home were based on a global benchmark assigned by albert per DEFRA's recommendations. The global average they used assumes each energy grid constitutes 91% gas and 9% electricity. This energy mix is more heavily weighted toward gas than that of many Canadian provinces, including Quebec where most of the programs included in this report were produced.

This means the resulting carbon emissions were overestimated wherever productions reported working from home. Because aggregated albert reports don't provide details on where working from home activities took place, we are unable to adjust for this retroactively.