

Why contribute to POLARIIS+ as a data provider?

POLARIIS+ is a project aimed at developing a collaborative infrastructure designed to structure, estimate, and share data on consumption and production in Canada and its provinces. Its goal is to foster a better understanding of the environmental impacts associated with lifestyles and production systems.

Contributing to POLARIIS+ as a data provider means strengthening the quality and credibility of environmental information for your sector and society as a whole. At a time when environmental data available in Canada and its provinces remains fragmented, siloed, and often based on averages that do not fully reflect reality, your contribution and participation help build a high-quality national database.

What you gain by sharing your data

- Gain privileged access to POLARIIS+.
- Reduce the costs of your future environmental studies.
- Access precise benchmark values tailored to your sector as well as the Canadian and provincial contexts.
- Contextualize your analyses, decisions, and results using data that reflects Canadian and provincial realities.
- Support your sustainability reports and decarbonization pathways with robust, transparent data.
- Benefit from models calibrated with your data, delivering directly actionable results for your internal reporting and initiatives.
- Position your organization as a committed leader in improving environmental data within your sector.
- Contribute to building a national and provincial database, while becoming one of its premier partners and beneficiaries.

How your contribution benefits your sector

- Enable sector stakeholders to better benchmark their environmental performance against common baselines.
- Help improve the environmental data available across Canada and its provinces.
- Replace generic or ill-suited data with data that accurately reflects your Canadian and provincial realities.
- Establish finer connections between production, processing, distribution, and consumption.
- Help build a shared knowledge base that serves organizations, researchers, and decision-makers alike.

How your contribution benefits society

- Better inform consumers about the environmental impacts associated with their choices.
- Make environmental information more accessible, concrete, and relevant to the general public.
- Support more informed decision-making among organizations, governments, and other stakeholders in the transition.

How your data is protected

- Granular data protection achieved through aggregation, anonymization, or restricted access.
- Tailored sharing levels defined based on data usage and sensitivity.
- A clear contractual framework governing data use, ownership, and dissemination.
- Structured collaboration from the outset to clarify data sharing and future usage.

A concrete example: The CHUM cafeteria case study

As part of its sustainability plan and decarbonization goals, the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) sought to quantify and display the carbon footprint of its food service offering. The objectives were to raise user awareness, guide its initiatives, and track the concrete results of its actions.



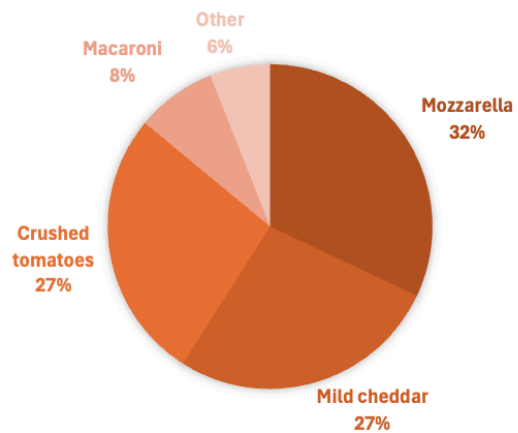
At the CHUM, the results helped identify practical opportunities to adapt the menu, notably by reducing the share of red-meat-based dishes and promoting more plant-based options.

What the data achieved

- Quantify the carbon footprint of 28 dishes served at the CHUM cafeteria.
- Compare the dishes on a common baseline: an individual meal portion.
- Establish an A-to-E grading scale to communicate the results.
- Identify the main ingredients and stages contributing to the carbon footprint of the dishes.
- Support both user awareness and the definition of practical, actionable steps.

Recipe names	Total carbon footprint per serving [kg CO2 eq.]	Serving size [g]	Grade
Philly steak sandwich - Tofu	0,573	260	B
Tomato macaroni	0,905	340	C
Salmon pie	1,49	190	D
Meat chili bowl	2,315	520	E
Shepherd's pie	2,841	250	E

TOMATO MACARONI, 0.9 KG CO2 EQ./SERVING



What this type of approach makes possible

Using real-world data makes it possible to produce directly actionable results, identify concrete reduction levers, compare different options, and communicate clearly and credibly about environmental impacts.



For more informations

CIRAIG - POLARIIS+ Project

mail: polariis@ciraig.org