

We are doomed - by the NHL?

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NHL oblivious to climate change?

I noted in the paper for November 8 and 9, 2019 that two NHL teams flew to Stockholm to play a couple of regular season games. So, I got to wondering, how much CO₂ is that? Using the ICAO calculator, I estimate the NHL created 210 tonnes of CO₂ for no reason whatsoever. If I lowball my estimates on how many people travelled, I still get 180 tonnes. Maybe Greta Thunberg should stay home, and start an "NHL Hockey Strike for Climate".

I assume both teams flew to JFK for the flights to Stockholm, and that each team was responsible for 120 people flying (players, coaching, team execs, WAGs, etc), in economy class:
Buffalo Sabres: BUF-JFK-JFK-ARN, return, 120 passengers: 97222 kg of CO₂
Tampa Bay Lightning: TPA-JFK-JFK-ARN, return, 120 passengers: 115,988kg of CO₂
Estimated total: 210 tonnes.

NHL apologists will protest that they buy carbon offsets, but, emissions made today are in the atmosphere today, while Australia burns. Offsets may kick in sometime this decade. Maybe. If the offset program is legitimate.

I assume 120 people per team thus:
40 team: 22 players, 5 coaching staff, 5 team executives/front office staff, 5 dressing room/training staff, and 3 spares/assistants = 40
40 WAGSO (wives and girlfriends/significant others)
40 FAMILY (mom and/or dad and/or buddy and/or sis)
10 MEDIA (radio, tv, ink, support)
130+ per team likely, but I chose the conservative estimate of 120

Lowballing the team travel at 100 passengers each:
Sabres: 81018 kg
Lightning: 96657 kg
Estimate total: 180 tonnes

Of course, the league would have sent a bunch more; an officiating crew and some schmoozers and assorted hangers-on, all at economy class, of course, so you can assume about 600kg per person return JFK.

Flight through New York JFK seems reasonable. When I tested a flight for the Bolts via Tampa - Atlanta - Frankfurt - Stockholm the number just got worse (145 t).

Sabres-haters will point out the Sabres probably only had the team, no WAGSO, no FAMILY, no MEDIA, but we are not Sabres-haters here.

<https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CarbonOffset/Pages/default.aspx>

Note: ICAO calculator gives result precision in tenths of kg, which is silly; real precision may be tens of kg.

YMMV: Every GHG emissions calculator I used gave a different result.

But, how much does the ill-advised promotion of the game cost the game itself, let alone the planet it is played on? How many minor hockey practices is the per person carbon budget? Let's round off and assume each person traveling to Stockholm generated 1t (1000)kg of CO₂ (they had to get to and from the airports, etc).

Assume the hockey family in Canada has a Dodge Caravan, rated at 13.7 l/100km in the city and has a 20 km round trip to practice (you have to stop at Tims for a cup of coffee, maybe pickup a kid and drop off, etc), and 1 liter of fuel burns to 2.3 kg of CO₂ (factors used are the fuel efficiency estimate from the Natural Resources Canada 2019 fuel consumption guide and standard conversion of 1 liter petrol burned to kg CO₂).

Then:

$(13.71 * 2.3\text{kg/l})/100\text{km} = 31.5\text{kg}/100\text{km} \Rightarrow 100\text{km}/31.5\text{kg} * 1000\text{kg/t} = 3175 \text{ km/t}$, and assuming 20 km/practice ~ 160 practices

So the NHL, rather than promoting the game for the future, hastened the game's and planet's demises and possibly cost some kid 160 practices in the long run.

Shameful.