



Carbon Audits & Reporting

Introduction

The Carbon Consultancy Limited provides carbon management services that include carbon audits, reduction programmes, reporting and offset procurement.

The company's clients are predominantly in the travel sector and/or are large users of travel, but the company's services are not restricted to this sector. The company has commissioned its own academic research to facilitate greater understanding of travel emissions beyond the simple averages used for reporting purposes. This reflects the growing requirement from companies for reporting that can influence lower carbon travel choices and provide more clarity on an emissions area that is a significant portion of corporate controllable emissions.

Carbon Reporting

For carbon footprinting the company uses UK government standards and/or the GHG Protocol standards for international companies for whom a UK carbon audit is part of an international report. The company only reports carbon dioxide emissions, despite the importance of other GHGs. This reflects the level of consumer and corporate understanding and is predicated on the belief that reducing carbon emissions will help to reduce other GHG emissions.

The company will only report carbon emissions for audit purposes on the existing reporting standards, but will provide supplementary reporting on transport types and utility providers to enable corporate policy to achieve the lowest carbon result.

Carbon Footprint

A carbon footprint will comprise those emissions that the company is directly responsible for from fuel generated power usage to fuel usage from transport. Reporting is always split between power and travel to enable assessment of the two areas and how they relate to corporate activity and reduction programmes.

The wider footprint of the group will relate to its waste and recycling policy, which has a direct link to emissions, but is not included in the core footprint. Most companies will also be able to create carbon emissions savings from its interaction with its supply chain. These savings may be reported, but not included in any corporate footprint.

Components of the corporate footprint would contain the following line items as a quantity of metric tons or part thereof.:

1. Core Footprint

Carbon dioxide values, for corporate reports and inclusion in CSR reporting.

Power

- a. Grid Electricity kwh
- b. Natural Gas kwh/therms
- c. Oil used for heat/power

Transport

- a. Road mileage by engine size and vehicle type.
- b. Rail mileage.
- c. Air travel by origin/destination.
- d. Road Haulage by mileage and weight (kgs).
- e. Air freight by weight (kgs) point to point airports.

d. and e. above apply to companies with product distribution. Courier usage may also be reported in this section for service companies.

2. Materials Footprint

Carbon emissions values to support waste reduction and recycling.

- a. Quantity and type of paper used annually in reams.
- b. Quantity and type of materials sent for recycling in kgs.
- c. Mixed waste quantity not recycled in kgs.

3. Detailed Footprint Analysis

This will be used to drive corporate policy and reduction programmes.

- a. Grid Electricity and Natural Gas usage by service provider.
- b. Air travel by class, airline, aircraft and route including intermediate stops.
- c. Road travel by exact model and mileage.
- d. Commuting distance and transport type for all employees
- e. Savings from usage of video conferencing technology.

Company Indicators

The Carbon Consultancy would recommend that the company link its carbon results to the following:

- A. Square Footage of office space to deliver a power result per square foot.
- B. Total Employees to deliver a per employee carbon value.

A & B above are the base indicators that will facilitate inter and intra industry comparisons and enable carbon values to reflect the expansion and contraction of a company over a prolonged period of time. The per employee carbon value may be used to apportion carbon per job/project or department.

- C. Many service industries hold job specific employee time usage information and this should be linked to carbon value. A further link may be established to job value for use as a comparison with national UK statistics.

In addition to these, the company would report a summary of all its emissions, both core and non core.

Targets & Goals

The Carbon Consultancy advocate that all corporate clients should achieve a level of carbon reduction prior to 2010 that exceeds the UK government target of 20% of 1990 emissions levels. Based purely upon IPCC source items for carbon dioxide emissions, UK emissions have fallen by 5.62% of 1990 levels based upon the last fully reported year 2005. Using 2005 levels as a comparable level to 2006-7, companies would need to produce a carbon emissions saving on current levels of 20% to exceed government targets and 15.23% to match the 1990 national target.

20% has been consistently identified as an amount of power consumption that could be saved from more efficient use of power in commercial installations. The inclusion of international aviation in the core footprint would provide an additional benefit in emissions savings above and beyond the national target.

To facilitate the achievement of a 20% reduction in emissions, the company will need to review all current power usage in their offices and subdivide the responsibility for energy efficiency to a departmental level. Employee engagement will be key to emissions reduction and beyond using the corporate level metrics outlined already, the use of enhanced reporting will support localised targets and incentives for employees.

The Carbon Consultancy advocate the use of staff reduction programmes that will deliver a domestic as well as corporate emissions reduction.

Benchmarking

The Carbon Consultancy will use its audit results on an anonymous basis, with a view to delivering an industry wide benchmark on metrics previously stated. The current level of power usage reporting and travel data by companies will facilitate basic benchmarking in the short term.

Continual Carbon Assessment

The Carbon Consultancy is able to support ongoing self assessment using its own data products and through advice on internal reporting standards to support assessment and management of carbon emissions. The Carbon Consultancy's webservice is used by companies, to integrate carbon reporting into their administration automatically. It also helps users assess travel options for a sub 2000 kms journey based upon type of transport and carbon output. A further self-auditing tool for carbon audit and management is in development currently with a launch scheduled for July.

Current data capture in most companies is driven by the requirements for cost management and internal commercial reporting. This has thus far limited the amount of information currently available to The Carbon Consultancy from many companies. Companies would be advised to include carbon reporting as a specific function alongside existing reporting functions. Superior data capture will be essential to carbon management and reporting by the company and The Carbon Consultancy already has experience in this area.

Timetable

The Carbon Consultancy would be able to undertake this audit within 7 working days of receipt of all available information. The delivery of the audit will be dictated by the, as yet, unseen volume of data and its format. Information should be provided in an excel format where possible.

For further information on carbon audits and reporting, please contact The Carbon Consultancy on 0845 644 8411 or by email at info@thecarbonconsultancy.co.uk