

Carbon Footprint Verification

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Climate change is a global issue - forward-thinking organisations have begun voluntarily declaring their GHG emissions for reasons such as risk management, cost reduction, brand protection, and attracting socially responsible investment.

The process of measuring, calculating and declaring your organisation's direct and indirect GHG emissions is typically referred to as carbon footprinting. An accurate carbon footprint is an important step to manage and reduce the impact of your organisation on climate change.

You need to decide on the scope of footprint that best suits your needs, while ensuring that it's sufficiently complete to be credible. The accuracy and validity of your footprint is dependent on a clear, consistent and transparent approach throughout the process of calculation.

Once you have established your carbon footprint you can begin implementing programmes to manage and reduce carbon emissions across your organisation, and begin realising cost savings.

Verifying your carbon footprint is important to ensure it is robust enough to be declared to demonstrate your organisation's positive approach to climate change.

Who is it relevant to?

Carbon Footprint Verification is relevant to all types of organisation

- Those already reporting GHG emissions for mandatory schemes that want to widen the scope to cover the whole organisation.
- Those in industries which are shortly going to be drawn into a mandatory GHG emissions scheme.
- Those that are reporting voluntarily to initiatives such as the Carbon Disclosure Project.
- Those smaller organisations looking for a manageable first step in promoting their contribution to the environment.

There are a range of benefits associated with calculating and managing your carbon footprint:

- **Mitigate climate change**
Reduce your organisation's greenhouse gas emissions and help mitigate global warming or destructive climate change.
- **Improve staff motivation and retention**
Involve your staff in devising and implementing carbon reduction plans, giving them the ability to "make a difference" as well as benefiting from their business insight.



- **Prepare for impending legislation**
Implement systems ahead of emerging regulations and future requirements when your organisation's emissions may be given a monetary value.
- **Reduce costs**
Drive savings with carbon reduction initiatives in operations and secondary activities such as energy consumption for heat and lighting, transport and travel.
- **Manage risks**
Understand the level of carbon risk exposure and in which parts of your organisation it can be reduced most efficiently.

Benefits of verifying your carbon footprint:

- **Assure reporting**
Trust that your information is accurate, relevant, complete, and consistent over time for management decision making. As well as assuring that the footprint is transparent and credible to external stakeholders and voluntary or regulated reporting schemes.
- **Differentiate from competition**
Prove that your organisation takes its environmental impact seriously, and benchmark against the competition in your supply chain.
- **Enhance reputation**
Demonstrate to shareholders, customers and employees, with early voluntary action, your organisation's commitment to cut carbon emissions.
- **Attract investment**
Your organisation's enhanced reputation can provide improved access to capital through ratings on the growing number of market indices such as the FTSE4Good and DJSI.
- **Manage reputational risk**
Have confidence that your organisation has considered the full scope of processes and emissions, and that the information is robust enough to withstand media scrutiny.
- **Credible and efficient carbon neutrality**
Underpin your claim with a proven best practice calculation, be assured that you are focusing on the most efficient abatement programmes and not purchasing more offset credits than necessary to achieve carbon neutrality.