

# An Introduction to Organisational Carbon Footprints

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# Introduction

- Environmental consultants, founded in 2013
- Offer a range carbon / resource efficiency services:
  - Organisational, product, building carbon footprints
  - Water footprints
  - Life cycle assessments (LCA)
  - Circular economy
  - Resource efficiency, carbon consultancy, peer reviews
  - Online training courses
  - Carbon offsetting and tree planting
- Hosts the Inventory of Carbon & Energy (ICE) database
  - Free embodied carbon database for materials
  - Downloaded by over 30,000 professionals across the globe



# **Organisational Carbon Footprints**

- Marketing / brand differentiation
  - Stakeholder requests
  - Customer expectations
  - Investment decisions
- Internal product innovation / development / hotspots
- Regulatory compliance (e.g., SECR, ESOS, UK Gov PPN...)
- Likely more requirements to come... e.g. Net Zero Transition, Carbon Tax...?



# **Reporting Standards**

- GHG Protocol Corporate Standard (Revised Edition, 2015 amendment)
- GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance (2015)
- GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard (2011)





Source: GHG Protocol

### Boundaries – What should you include?



## Start with Scope 1&2

### • Document the process:

- Reporting period annually, typically calendar or financial year
- Organisational / operational scope & boundaries
- Data collection & validation process

### • Access to the right data is key!

- Primary data e.g.,
  - □ Supplier invoices (elect / gas / other site fuel delivery statements)
  - □ Meter readings
  - □ Fleet fuel records (fuel cards / mileage logs)
- Emission factors to convert activity data to Carbon e.g., UK Defra, IEA, energy suppliers...
- Intensity metrics, e.g.,
  - □ Turnover
  - No' employees
  - Floor area
  - Production volumes



### Scope 1&2 Reporting Tools

#### **Carbon Footprint Comparisons:**

Benchmark Year:	2016
Reporting Comparison Year:	2021
Dual Reporting Status:	Both Location & Market Based

Carbon Footprint Metric	2016	2021	% Change
Absolute tCO2e	75.31	64.86	-13.88%
tCO2e per turnover	0.10	0.07	-28.24%
tCO2e per employee	3.14	1.97	-37.37%
tCO2e per tonne	0.11	0.08	-23.72%

Verification of footprint results is recommended to ensure completeness, accuracy and transparency of results



Turnover



Source: Circular Ecology Scope 1&2 Reporting Tool - https://circularecology.com/newsletter.html



# Explained – "Duel Reporting"

Reporting of both "Location-based" & "Market-based" Scope 2 emissions:

### Location-based accounting method:

- □ Average emissions intensity of grids where energy consumption occurs
- □ Country/region specific grid-average emission factor data
- □ E.g., IEA national factors, UK DEFRA factors

### • Market-based accounting method:

- Emissions related to electricity that organisations have purposefully chosen or have been allocated by its supplier
- □ Based on contractual arrangements (supplier specific)
- □ E.g., electricity supply with 100% renewable contract backed by EACs (Energy Attribute Certificates), REGOs / GOs (Guarantees of Origin)



# Suggested approach to Scope 3

1. Scope 3 Screening & Category Selection 2. Scope 3 Data Selection (Primary & Secondary Sources)

3. Scope 3 Data Collection & Gap Identification

### 4. Improving Data Quality

#### **Process**

High-level screening to highlight most relevant / material Scope 3 categories

#### Data Sources

Spend Data
Existing Product LCAs
Scope 1 & 2 Emissions

#### **Process**

Choosing the best Primary & Secondary data sources for reporting of relevant Scope 3 categories

#### **Additional Data Sources**

EPDsIndustry data sourcesLiterature

#### **Process**

Internal review of data to identify gaps, which can be used to inform engagement strategies with suppliers

#### Areas of Engagement

Supplier specific data

- Additional research
- Better assumptions

#### **Process**

Iterative process to try and improve the quality and accuracy of your relevant Scope 3 data over time



# **Organisation vs. Product Footprint**





= Transport

# **Carbon Reduction Target Types**



# **Carbon Reduction Targets**

Carbon Forecasting assessed against the latest "Climate Science" to provide appropriate "near/medium/long-term" targets



### **Carbon Reduction Plan**

Includes footprint reporting + reduction targets + carbon reduction actions



# **Carbon Offsets**

Represents **1 tCO2 removed or avoided**, achieved through projects such as -

- Reforestation, e.g., planting new trees
- Avoided deforestation, REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)
- Enhancement and sustainable management of forestry, REDD+
- Renewables, such as solar PV and wind turbines
- Capture of landfill gas or methane
- Clean cookstove projects
- Clean water access

https://circularecology.com/carbon-offset-projects.html



### **Carbon Offsets**

Criteria to consider for credibility (high-quality offsets) -

- □ Additional ensuring that the carbon reduction is real and permanent
- Verified proving assurance on the quality and credibility of the credits
- □ **Traceable** transparent and proving proof of the offset

Other aspects you can consider...

**Relevance** to your organisation and alignment with other ESG goals



### Summary

- 1. Scope 1&2 start with annual reporting and aim towards a "carbon reduction plan" i.e., baseline, annual reporting, reduction targets, and a list of reduction actions
- 2. Document all your processes, assumptions, and gaps for consistency and transparency
- **3. Scope 3 -** Perform an initial "Scope 3 Screening" (e.g., using spend data) before trying to calculate all scope 3 upstream & downstream emissions
- 4. Focus first on what data you have available already, then look at improving data quality for the next year (e.g., via supplier engagement / additional research)
- 5. Set multiple targets, and stagger these over time e.g., near-term, medium-term, long-term etc.
- 6. Quantify reduction opportunities, and plan for what is possible with available resources
- 7. Engage early as others will likely be trying to achieve the same thing





## Thank you