



Greenhouse gas footprinting and reporting services

A growing awareness of the risks associated with greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions means that more and more organisations are calculating and reporting their GHG footprint. The number doing this is expected to increase further following the UK Government's recent announcement that it intends to introduce mandatory reporting from 1 October 2013 for all UK companies listed on the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange.

To be credible, a GHG footprint must be based on robust data sources, and align with UK and international emissions reporting standards. While calculating a GHG footprint that will stand up to scrutiny can be challenging, the benefits to an organisation of doing so include:

- Demonstrating to investors and other stakeholders that they understand the impact their activities have on the environment.
- Showcasing any reductions they have made.
- Obtaining an insight into their emissions sources.
- Providing a baseline against which they can set targets to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

- Improving staff morale and retention.
- Complying with regulatory reporting schemes.

Having an accurate footprint provides companies and their stakeholders with confidence that they understand their emissions, are in a strong position to manage them and are able to maximise the competitive benefits of the above factors in the marketplace. Therefore, clear communication of an organisation's footprint through reporting plays an important role in achieving maximum business benefit.

Our services

Ricardo-AEA is a leading expert in corporate footprinting and reporting. We have helped a large number of organisations to gather the data required to calculate and report their footprints through a variety of voluntary and mandatory reporting mechanisms including annual reporting, the CDP and the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC).

Our expertise has been developed over 40 years of being involved in groundbreaking technical and policy development across the environmental spectrum and we continue to play a lead role as advisor to governments and major corporations.

Our long track record of supporting governments enables us to offer independent and credible support to commercial organisations. Our experience means that we are ideally placed to deliver corporate GHG footprints against a range of standards including the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)/Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Company Reporting Guidelines and ISO 14064.

A wide range of associated services includes:

- Support with corporate reporting for the CRC, European Union Emissions Trading Scheme, CDP, Global Reporting Initiative and Dow Jones Sustainability Index.
- Product footprinting and life-cycle assessments against standards such as ISO 14067 or PAS 2050.
- Assurance of GHG inventories and footprints against ISO 14064-3.

Our experience

Our track record of supporting organisations on emissions management is second to none and includes the following major projects.

UK GHG Emissions Inventory

Ricardo-AEA performs the role of Inventory Agency on behalf of DECC. Ricardo-AEA¹ was one of the first organisations in the world to make national emission estimates and has operated the UK emissions inventory programme since its inception about 30 years ago. Our support provides the UK Government with:

- Emissions inventory data to meet all international reporting obligations, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- UK carbon budget requirements.
- Interpretation of data to inform policy formulation.

We also manage several detailed databases that calculate and collate emissions and emission factors.

Defra/DECC's GHG conversion factors for company reporting

GHG conversion factors were introduced in 2005. Since that time, our experts have supported the UK Government in managing and updating the factors, which are published by Defra. The GHG conversion factors provide robust UK-centric default emission factors developed according to the best available information and methodologies.

These factors are used as the basis for calculations on GHG emissions for company reporting by national and international organisations. In addition, we authored the guidance on measuring and reporting GHG emissions from freight transport operations, which provides users with information on best practice, including options for improving data quality and calculation accuracy.

Calculating a major retailer's carbon footprint

For the last 3 years, we have calculated the annual carbon footprint of a major retailer. This involved analysing the year-on-year changes to the footprint, both absolute and in relation to the retailer's overall business performance and drivers. The extent of the footprint has been widened with the addition of scope 3 emissions from overseas freight contractors and the acquisition of a European retail brand. The calculation was used as the basis for external communication on environmental performance. Our experts made an important contribution to the CSR content of the retailer's annual report and have written its annual submission to the CDP.

Carbon footprinting services for an international oil and gas company

Since 2008, our experts have provided carbon footprinting and reporting services for an international oil and gas company. This has included the calculation of the company's annual carbon footprint, and the development of a bespoke data collection and analysis tool. Ricardo-AEA's support has provided the company with the confidence to publicly report on its footprint, helping to maintain its brand image by demonstrating that it understands and is taking responsibility for its emissions. Each year, the results of the footprint calculations are published in the company's annual report. We have also helped to prepare the company's annual submission to the CDP.

For more information on Ricardo-AEA's greenhouse gas footprinting and reporting services, please contact:

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Global environmental challenges: sustainable solutions

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¹ On 8 November 2012, Ricardo-AEA Ltd was constituted following Ricardo plc's acquisition of the assets and goodwill of AEA Technology plc. For full details, please visit www.ricardo-aea.com/cms/ownership