

COGSBP14

Determine the Carbon Footprint for Products and/or Services in Support of Sustainable Business Practice



Overview

This standard is about carbon footprinting in support of sustainable business practice. A carbon footprint is the term used to describe the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused by a particular activity or entity, and thus a way for organisations to monitor their contribution to climate change. Determining the carbon footprint is seen as the essential first step in reducing emissions both internally within the organisation and also across the whole supply chain. It requires that the full range of greenhouse gases are considered as part of the process, including gases such as CO₂, methane and CFCs.

The role described by this standard covers the development of carbon footprints for individual products and/or services. It requires the ability to start-up the research, collect data, analyse data and report outcomes and results. The ability to communicate with different types of people to both gain approval for the activity and to promote the research outcomes forms an important part of this standard.

It requires the application of footprinting processes and techniques to determine the carbon footprint for individual products and/or services.

Target Group

This standard is for those involved in the development of sustainable business practice through the management of greenhouse gas emissions. It is likely to apply to technical staff within organisations, those with responsibility for implementing environmental programmes..

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Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 specify a **project plan** in support of the **footprinting process**
 - P2 engage **others** to ensure support for the **footprinting process**
 - P3 obtain the **resources** required to implement the **footprinting process**
 - P4 implement the **footprinting process** to determine the carbon footprint for the product and/or service
 - P5 identify opportunities for reducing the carbon footprint of the product and/or service
 - P6 report on the research outcomes detailing the carbon footprint for the product and/or service and **carbon reduction opportunities**
 - P7 ensure research outcomes and recommendations comply with legal requirements
 - P8 present research outcomes and recommendations for carbon reduction to decision makers
 - P9 communicate effectively with all those involved in the **footprinting process**
 - P10 gain approval and support for proposals and recommendations

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the legislation, industry standards, and voluntary codes that support carbon footprinting
- K2 the carbon footprints' impact on the economic, social and environmental principles of sustainability and sustainable business practice
- K3 how product and/or service based carbon footprinting supports the development of sustainable business practice
- K4 the different greenhouse gases that contribute to the carbon footprint of the product and/or service
- K5 the global warming potential of the gases that are classed as greenhouse gases
- K6 how greenhouse gas emissions contribute to environmental change
- K7 how carbon footprints link to the science of climate change
- K8 why it is important to involve decision makers, organisational colleagues, customers and suppliers in the footprinting process
- K9 project planning and implementation
- K10 the resources that are required to support a product and/or service based carbon footprinting process
- K11 the sources of carbon footprinting advice and support
- K12 sensitivity analysis and how and why it is used to identify research boundaries for carbon footprinting processes
- K13 functional units and their role in footprinting
- K14 the guiding principles of the carbon footprinting process
- K15 how raw materials and supply chains can contribute to a product/service carbon footprint
- K16 how to complete the process steps involved in carbon footprinting
- K17 the opportunities available for reducing carbon footprints
- K18 types, sources and methods for collecting and organising carbon data
- K19 the techniques used to verify quality of carbon data
- K20 the carbon data analysis techniques used to calculate carbon footprints for individual products and/or services
- K21 the methods used to validate carbon footprints
- K22 the opportunities available for reducing carbon footprints including, mitigation, offsetting and storage
- K23 how to link carbon footprints into the management of greenhouse gases
- K24 how to communicate the outcomes of the carbon footprinting activities

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Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

Project plan describing:

- 1 product/services selection
- 2 function unit
- 3 project scope
- 4 research objectives
- 5 sensitivity
- 6 research methodology

Others include:

- 1 decision makers
- 2 organisational colleagues
- 3 customers
- 4 suppliers

Resources include:

- 1 people
- 2 finance
- 3 technology
- 4 knowledge

Footprinting process includes:

- 1 process mapping
- 2 checking boundaries
- 3 data collection and processing
- 4 footprint calculation
- 5 evaluating uncertainties within results

Carbon reduction opportunities include:

- 1 the use of renewable energy
- 2 carbon off-setting
- 3 carbon storage
- 4 delayed emissions

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5 recycling and reuse

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Developed by Cogent

Version number 1

Date approved October 2011

Indicative review date October 2014

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation Cogent

Original URN COGSBP14

Relevant occupations Technical Staff; Environmental Manager

Suite Sustainable Business Practice

Key words carbon; footprint; products; services; sustainable; business; practice
