



# Carbon footprinting with Nexus

Leading businesses recognize that markets, supply chains, and regulatory activity are all being affected by climate change. Shareholders, staff, and consumers look to the business community for solutions. As carbon management and corporate sustainability planning become increasingly established practices, more organizations are seeking optimal strategies to lower their environmental footprints.

If you are looking to elevate your sustainability performance, Nexus encourages you take the first step with a carbon footprint assessment. This assessment generates organizational baseline data, measuring energy use and other sustainability metrics.

## What you can achieve: From carbon footprint to climate neutral

A carbon footprint represents the total amount of climate warming, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions created by an organization, event, or product. In order to reduce these emissions, we first need to measure them.

### Calculating your footprint

The process kicks off with an initial consultation. This is an opportunity for Nexus to learn more about your organization's activities, assess your emissions profile, and understand your sustainability objectives.

The next step is to gather data on your organization: Nexus will provide a list of data points for you to collect internally, such as the amount of energy consumed, where electricity is sourced from, and level of corporate travel. This data is then sent back to Nexus where we use standardized, country-specific emission factors and established values to determine how many GHG emissions are associated with this activity. If data is not available for your country of operation, Nexus relies on the most recent figures from the IPCC<sup>1</sup> and DEFRA<sup>2</sup>.

The report generated by Nexus will provide a detailed analysis of your organization's carbon footprint broken down by activity type. Nexus will also provide recommendations for reducing emissions and a debriefing session on the report results. Finally, Nexus offers in-house training that can be integrated with the outcomes of the carbon footprint assessment.

### Tackling carbon using standards and scopes

Nexus follows the GHG Protocol and ISO 14064-1:2006 guidelines for carbon footprint calculation, widely accepted standards that produce trusted results. The adherence to these standards helps to ensure that real progress is being made and that results are credible.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/publications\\_and\\_data\\_reports.shtml](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_and_data_reports.shtml)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ukconversionfactorscarbonsmart.co.uk/>



Under the operating principles of the GHG Protocol and ISO 14064-1:2006, carbon footprints are assessed under three emission scopes:

- Scope 1: Direct GHG emissions that are owned or controlled by the organization. Eg. Company vehicles
- Scope 2: Indirect emissions from purchased electricity. Eg. Grid electricity
- Scope 3: Indirect emissions that result from the organization's activities but arise from sources owned or controlled by others. Eg. Supply chain emissions

Calculations most accurately represent actual emissions produced when all three scopes are included. Nexus encourages its clients to disclose emissions under all three scopes, as well as which scope three emissions have and have not been included in their carbon footprint calculation.

Carbon footprint calculations must also deal with some uncertainty and determine how conservative to treat assumptions. For example, when calculating air travel emissions, the total will depend on whether radiative forcing (RF)<sup>34</sup> is considered. RF is the additional environmental impact of aviation, including emissions of nitrous oxides and water vapor emitted at high altitude. Nexus believes that emission calculations should present a conservative scenario and thus calculates emissions from air travel by including the effect of radiative forcing. We encourage organizations to report any uncertainties that Nexus identifies in the emission calculation process when communicating results to stakeholders.

### Tell the world about your goals and achievements

Having the numbers to verify your sustainability efforts will enable you to better communicate your progress to staff and customers. By baselining your current performance and following up with regular carbon audits, you will be able to set carbon reduction goals and track performance for years to come.

In addition to offering carbon footprinting services, Nexus also sells carbon credits in support of a number of low-carbon development projects. For organizations looking to go “carbon neutral” (no net climate change impact), offsetting is a great way to account for remaining emissions and support impactful projects in the developing world.

Please contact [partnerships@nexusfordevelopment.org](mailto:partnerships@nexusfordevelopment.org) if you would like to learn more about how to measure your carbon footprint and offset your GHG emissions.

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3 <http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/sres/aviation/index.php?idp=64>

4 [https://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch2s2-2.html](https://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch2s2-2.html)

