

Progress Report on Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2011

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Summary: In June 2007 the Board set itself the target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2011. At that meeting it decided to create its own carbon offset scheme to help achieve this target. The scheme is in place and, along with other measures, will be sufficient for the Board to achieve carbon neutrality from April 2008.

Background

1. At its meeting in June, the Board decided to create its own carbon offset scheme based on planting trees and giving away low energy light bulbs. The aim is to offset a net annual carbon emission by the Board of 25 tonnes (taking account of other energy saving measures).
2. The carbon emissions for the Board (including that generated by attendance at Board events and meetings) in 2006-07 were 30.5 tonnes. The planned phased reduction in emissions against the 2006-07 base line was: 25% (total net emissions of 23.0 tonnes) in 2007-08; 50% (total net emissions of 15.2 tonnes) 2008-09; 75% (total net emissions of 7.6 tonnes) 2009-10 and 100% (total emissions 0 tonnes) 2010-11.
3. In practice giving away low energy light bulbs and tree planting on the scale proposed will enable the board to achieve carbon neutrality by the end of March 2008. (Table 1)
4. Calculations are based on low energy light bulbs being used for 800 hours per year (industry calculation of the average is 1700 hours) and having a lifespan of 7.5 years.

Table 1

Energy Saving Measures	Saving (tonnes of CO₂) per year achieved by end of 2007- 08
Energy efficiency measures in the CCB office	1.1
Solar pv installation at the office	0.3
Car mileage reduction (staff and members)	0.9
Sub Total of energy efficiency	2.2 tonnes
Carbon Offset Scheme	
Tree planting (100 a year every year)	5.0
Giving away low energy light bulbs (100 x 20W and 25 x 16W (every year)	23.3
Sub Total of carbon offsetting	28.3 tonnes
Total saved and offset by 31.3.07	30.5 tonnes
Target Reduction	30.5 tonnes
Balance	0.0 tonnes

Measures for 2008-09	
Maintain energy efficiency gains in office	1.1
Solar PV	0.7
Maintain car mileage at 2007-08 baseline	0.9
Sub Total of energy efficiency	2.7 tonnes
Carbon Offset	
Giving Away Low energy light bulbs	23.3
Plant 100 trees and maintain all those planted in previous years)	5.0
Change to green electricity tariff (from Oct 2008)	1.5
Sub total of offsetting	29.8 tonnes
Total	32.5 tonnes
Target Reduction	30.5 tonnes
Balance (positive)	2.0 tonnes

5. Carbon neutrality can only be sustained by continuing to maintain all the trees planted and giving away low energy light bulbs (or an equivalent) every year.
6. The gross cost in 2007-08 will be £900. The total savings through reduced car mileage claims and energy costs are estimated to be up to £1,300.

Recommendations

1. To note progress and the anticipated achievement of carbon neutrality in 2008.