
Deloitte demonstrates commitment to embed sustainability with a focus on reducing emissions

"We have a responsibility to minimise the impact of our operations and services on the environment and have worked hard to become a truly sustainable business. To help us manage our impacts, we have developed a robust and relevant monitoring system of which CEMARS plays a vital part. Through leading by example we are able to differentiate ourselves from our peers, build the strongest relationships with our clients and run an increasingly efficient business, all whilst continuing to protect our natural capital. This is a win-win situation." **Gavin Harrison, Environmental Manager, Deloitte LLP**

Background

Deloitte LLP is a professional services firm with offices in over 30 locations and approximately 15,000 staff. They are committed to operational sustainability and have operated an ISO 14001 accredited environmental management system (EMS) throughout their UK operations since 2009. Effective management of their estate has enabled them to improve the carbon efficiency of their buildings in each of the last four years and so achieve and retain CEMARS certification.

In 2011, Deloitte's green agenda was given new impetus in with the launch of 'Our Green Journey'. This new environmental strategy combined significant investment and invigorated engagement with their people, to push Deloitte to the forefront of the market in sustainability innovation, thought leadership and environmental performance.

The Challenge and Results

Deloitte have expanded rapidly in the past decade and aspire to continue on this path with minimal impact to the environment. To drive increasingly carbon efficient growth, they set long-term operational sustainability targets as part of Our Green Journey. These focused on reducing a number of impacts including energy and water consumption, improving waste management and implementing technologies to reduce the need for business travel.

Deloitte chose CEMARS (Certified Emissions Measurement And Reduction Scheme) as they were aware that implementing effective monitoring and management processes would allow them to realise considerable savings and future-proof themselves against impending changes to government legislation. Due to the recognition as an Early Action Metric, it also had the benefit of improving their standing in the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.

Over the past four years, Deloitte has realised an absolute reduction in emissions from their operational estate (scopes 1 and 2) of 2,758 tonnes of CO₂e, or a 13 percent reduction. Deloitte has achieved these reductions as a result of their estate rationalisation programme, significant investment in energy efficiency and improved space utilisation.

The Focus going Forward

The targets that drive Our Green Journey are set out below. These are challenging but with sufficient focus and investment, Deloitte are confident of achieving them:

		Target	Baseline	Target
GHG Emissions	Reduce Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions	35% per FTE	2010/11	2020/21
Energy Consumption	Reduce emissions intensity from energy consumption	30% per FTE	2010/11	2020/21
Energy Procurement	Procure renewable tariff, electricity contracts	100%		2011/12
Energy Generation	Generate electricity from renewable sources	40%		2020/21
Water Consumption	Reduce potable water consumption	20% per FTE	2010/11	2020/21
Travel	Reduce travel related GHG emissions	25% per FTE	2010/11	2020/21
Video Conferencing	Increase the usage of video conferencing facilities	50%	2010/11	2013/14
Waste Production	Reduce quantities of waste production	20% per FTE	2010/11	2020/21
Waste Management	Send zero waste to landfill across our estate	0%		2015/16
Paper Usage	Reduce paper consumption	20% per FTE	2010/11	2020/21

In the short-term, the focus will be on optimising the performance of the Deloitte estate and increasing employee awareness of the relevance of environmental issues. There will also be considerable engagement with our clients and peers as we feel that by working together on these global issues, we will be far more effective than as individuals.

Q & A with Gavin Harrison, Environmental Manager, Deloitte LLP

Why did Deloitte choose the CEMARS standard?

At Deloitte LLP we are committed to reducing our environmental impact with a particular focus on climate change. We have undertaken carbon footprints for four years and have a well defined process so it was an easy decision to formalise this with a carbon management certification. CEMARS was the only internationally accredited standard for monitoring and managing our GHG emissions, and as a business with global clients it made sense to implement the best and most recognised scheme.

How will Deloitte reinvest the savings made to date in energy reduction?

Most of the savings will be realised over the coming years, but in anticipation of that we have placed significant up-front investment in energy efficiency measures, such as LED lighting, PIR sensors and upgrading the BMS systems in our larger offices. We have also procured a sustainability metrics software package to allow more accurate and rapid monitoring of our environmental performance, and appointed an energy manager who is tasked with working with our landlords to deliver additional reductions across our estate.

What advice do you have for other organisations working to measure their carbon footprint and make a reduction in emissions?

This will sound very unexciting but effective management of your footprint will depend massively on ensuring the data you are recording is accurate. The reason for the footprint is to focus your attentions on the highest priorities for action, so if this isn't correct then you'll waste more time in the long-run! Regarding properties, benchmarking their electricity and gas consumption is a quick way to identify any under-performing buildings and to understand their relative performance against other 'standard' offices.

What challenges does Deloitte and the industry face for long-term carbon management and reduction?

The key challenge for Deloitte and our peer group, ironically driven by opportunity is the global market. The recession within Europe means we are looking to Asia for increasing amounts of our work so we need to reconcile our business model, providing expert professional services to a global portfolio of clients, with our ambition to create a truly sustainable business that has effectively decoupled our carbon emissions from our growth. It will not be a short-term solution but by continuing to address the process, engage with our people and implement new technologies we feel we have started down the right path.

Deloitte.

CEMARS (Certified Emissions Measurement And Reduction Scheme) recognises organisations for credible carbon measurement, management and reduction. An organisation must measure their carbon emissions across Scope 1, 2 and 3 as well as develop a detailed reduction plan with targets and key initiatives outlined. An organisation has five years from the base year to demonstrate either an absolute or relative reduction in carbon emissions. Organisations affected by the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme can also use CEMARS to demonstrate carbon reductions achieved over the last three years for the Early Action Metric. CEMARS is the only standard in the UK accredited to ISO 14065, the recognised international standard for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies.