



Standards

help Council cut carbon footprint

Every day standards and standardisation make a difference in the lives of New Zealanders. Standards solutions help to keep our homes, buildings, playgrounds, and health services safe. They can also be used to protect our environment and to improve the quality of goods and services.

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Sustainability Advisor, Maria Ioannou, Dunedin City Council

Dunedin City Council (DCC) is one of the first New Zealand local authorities to measure its carbon footprint against global greenhouse gas standard, ISO 14064-1:2006.

David Yates, Senior Financial Accountant, explains why DCC chose to measure its emissions against ISO 14064-1:2006 *Greenhouse gases – Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals.*

‘With the Emissions Trading Scheme legislation, we needed to understand where we were at with our carbon emissions. ISO 14064-1 is a nationally and internationally recognised emissions measure, made by a well-recognised organisation, which can stand up to scrutiny.’

Collecting the carbon emissions data took 2 years. Energy Manager Neville Auton, whose role is to look for energy efficiency measures, says ‘it was a big effort’.

‘We had to report on internationally agreed factors for carbon emissions, including volumes and the methods used to gather these volumes. We measured the carbon footprint of gas, electricity, LPG fuel, diesel, and petrol we use within Council and in our landfill and forestry.’

‘Measuring these areas helps us to reduce our carbon footprint. For example, we have 187 vehicles in our fleet. Through driver training, fleet maintenance, and fleet use and replacement, we can reduce carbon emissions. Another example is paper waste. Small changes such as using a smaller font and double-sided printing can reduce carbon emissions.’



‘We’re embedding this work into the organisation so that individuals can make a contribution’

Sustainability Advisor, Maria Ioannou, Dunedin City Council

In 2012, carboNZero Holdings Ltd independently verified that it had measured DCC’s greenhouse gas emissions to ISO 14064-1. The inventory covered the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. In the inventory report, emissions totalled 71 231 tonnes. This is estimated to have since dropped to about 31 000 tonnes.

Some examples of how the Council has reduced its carbon emissions include capturing methane gas from the Green Island Landfill and using it to generate electricity, and ensuring computers were turned off, achieving a saving of \$50,000 of electricity waste.

Maria Ioannou, Sustainability Advisor, says DCC is committed to sustainability and will continue to look for innovative ways to reduce its carbon footprint.

‘Sustainability can get a lot of stick for not being something tangible. The carbon footprint work we have done is tangible and practical, and people can engage with it. It’s another ‘lens’ to look at our activities through and to do things in a more sustainable way.’

The Council is also developing an external energy plan for the city, to be finalised by the end of 2013. Examples of further initiatives to reduce carbon emissions include:

- improving wastewater pumping efficiency
- using renewable wood chip burners in the glassed-in areas at the botanical gardens
- inserting LED lights at the art gallery
- changing street lighting
- using efficient heat pumps at the three community pools.

 **SECTOR ENVIRONMENT**

KEY BENEFITS OF STANDARDS

- **REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT**
- **SUSTAINABILITY**
- **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**



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