

Tommy Wiedmann (BT)

From: "Tommy Wiedmann (CENSA)" <tommy@censa.org.uk>
To: <info@censa.org.uk>
Sent: 04 July 2008 18:20
Subject: Centre for Sustainability Accounting - Info Letter 08/1


CenSA Info Letter

4 July 2008
Issue 08/1



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CenSA NEWS

ISA-UK is now CenSA

On 1 April 2008 the Partnership ISA^{UK} Research & Consulting became the **Centre for Sustainability Accounting (CenSA) Ltd.** With this transformation we will be able to further improve our products and services to customers. These include Carbon Footprint calculations, Ecological Footprint analyses and full Triple Bottom Line Accounting, covering all direct and indirect impacts in more than 100 economic, social and environmental indicators over the full life cycle.



CenSA is based at the Innovation Centre of the University of York. The website has been moved to www.censa.org.uk - go there to have a look at our new design, updated contents and all CenSA and ISA^{UK} documents.

UK carbon footprint report by SEI & ISA



The CenSA partners Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) at the University of York and Centre for Integrated Sustainability Analysis (ISA) at the University of Sydney have undertaken innovative research into the carbon footprint of UK trade. Defra, who commissioned the work to SEI and ISA, has now published a report which identifies the CO₂ emissions created by goods and services imported into the UK. It finds that carbon dioxide emissions associated with UK consumption increased by 115 million tonnes (18%), between 1992 and 2004.

A ground-breaking new modelling approach, called multi-region input-output analysis, was developed specifically for the UK and thoroughly tested for its robustness.

UoY press release: <http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/presspr/pressreleases/ukconsumption.htm>

SEI press release: <http://www.sei.se/index.php?page=newsitem&item=5720>

Defra press release: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080702a.htm>

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PROJECTS

CenSA Projects and Clients

In 2007 and 2008 the Centre for Sustainability Accounting has undertaken a number of projects on behalf of clients from the private and public sector. The following list in alphabetical order.

Bedfordshire County Council

Bedfordshire County Council committed itself to undertaking an in-depth examination and analysis of its own

carbon footprint to set an example for both the community and its public and private sector partners. CenSA together with CAG Consultants undertook the detailed carbon footprint analysis and prepared a draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the Council. > [download summary document](#)

Hamson Partnership

This project explored one of the key issues related to climate change: achieving low greenhouse gas emissions in the housing sector. The comparative carbon footprint analysis of on-site construction and an off-site manufactured house provides an understanding of the carbon footprint from house building (the production of materials used in construction) and the direct energy requirements of housing. > [download report](#)

Highlands & Islands Enterprise

CenSA undertook an analysis of the carbon footprint and climate footprint of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). Internal activities and external regional investment activities have been distinguished by assessing expenditure for the financial year 2006/07 as well as on-site emissions. The results will help HIE to set up a Climate Change Action Plan and an ongoing, quarterly monitoring of HIE's carbon footprint is under way.

Jordans Cereals

A complete carbon footprint analysis of Jordans Cereals was undertaken by CenSA, including all company operations, rather than just individual products within Jordans. Every item of expenditure has been taken into account for one financial year. This analysis, using the Bottomline³ software, is an industry first and provides information that is subsequently to be used in a corporate climate change action plan.

Scottish Agricultural College at the University of Edinburgh

The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) commissioned four master dissertations investigating the Ecological Footprint of agricultural systems in Scotland and the internal operations of SAC itself. All studies used the Bottomline³ tool for their calculations. > [download dissertation](#)

Scottish Parliament

Using Bottomline³, the carbon footprint (CF) and Ecological Footprint (EF) of the Scottish Parliament in the three areas energy, paper and waste was calculated for the financial years 2005/06 and 2006/07, as well as for targets set until 2008/09. A novel **Hybrid Life-Cycle-Analysis** approach has been employed which is described in the Methodology section of the project report. Large reductions in both CF and EF through a switch to green electricity supply in 2005 could be documented. The Scottish Parliament is on track to achieve its targets for the years up to 2008/09. > [download report](#)

Sustainable Consumption and Production network (SCPnet)

The Stockholm Environment Institute in York undertook a Bottomline³ analysis of the resource productivity of five key economic sectors in the South West region of England: Transport Equipment manufacture, Motor Vehicle manufacture, Hotels and Catering services, Food and Drink manufacture and Business Services. The scoping study is a first attempt to estimate the environmental pressures from these economic sectors using the carbon footprint as a main indicator. Methane and nitrous oxide emissions were included for Hotels and Catering services, and Food and Drink production. The study identified potentials for improving resource efficiency in the chosen sectors, and also benchmarked the region's sectors against their UK averages. > [more information and report download](#)

Waverley Borough Council

CenSA is currently undertaking a comprehensive Ecological Footprint study of Waverley Borough Council. The work is in progress.

WWF-UK, Panda House

A comprehensive Triple Bottom Line analysis of all operations of WWF-UK's headquarters in Godalming (Panda House) is currently carried out by CenSA, using the Bottomline³ software. The work is in progress.

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COURSES

Triple Bottom Line & Ecological Footprint: theory into practice - a one day training workshop.



The Centre for Sustainability Accounting offers a one day training workshop which will provide you with the tools and the know-how to construct your organisation's Triple Bottom Line (TBL) account, Carbon Footprint or Ecological Footprint. Learn about TBL

accounting and Footprinting, work hands-on with the Bottomline³ software tool, share experiences, create your own TBL or Footprint project, and learn to interpret and use the results. Anyone working in an organisation that is keen to move from talking about 'Footprints' or 'Triple Bottom Line' to doing it in practice should attend this one day workshop. This includes managers, consultants, accountants, educators, planners, policy makers and strategists in business, industry, local authorities, government and non-government organisations. [Click here for more details.](#)

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Book chapter

Wiedmann, T. and J. Minx (2008) A Definition of 'Carbon Footprint'. Ecological Economics Research Trends. C. C. Pertsova: Chapter 1, pp. 1-11. Nova Science Publishers, Inc, Hauppauge NY, USA.
https://www.novapublishers.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=5999, also available as ISA-UK Research Report 07/01 from <http://www.censa.org.uk/reports.html>.

Conference presentation

Wiedmann, T., 2008. Corporate Footprint and Triple-Bottom-Line Accounting - A Life-Cycle Approach for SCP, SCPnet Annual Conference 2008, 4-5 March 2008, Birmingham, UK > [download presentation](#)
 For further updates see also <http://www.censa.org.uk/publications.html>.

Publications by CenSA partners

Wiedmann, T., Wood, R., Lenzen, M., Minx, J., Guan, D. and Barrett, J. (2008). Development of an Embedded Carbon Emissions Indicator - Producing a Time Series of Input-Output Tables and Embedded Carbon Dioxide Emissions for the UK by Using a MRIO Data Optimisation System. Final Report to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by Stockholm Environment Institute at the University of York and Centre for Integrated Sustainability Analysis at the University of Sydney. Project Ref.: EV02033, July 2008. Defra, London, UK.
<http://randd.defra.gov.uk> > Search for project no. EV02033, or
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/scp/research/themes/theme1/scale0708.htm>.

Wiedmann, T., Lenzen, M. and Wood, R. (2008). Uncertainty Analysis of the UK-MRIO Model - Results from a Monte-Carlo Analysis of the UK Multi-Region Input-Output Model (Embedded Carbon Dioxide Emissions Indicator); Report to the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by Stockholm Environment Institute at the University of York and Centre for Integrated Sustainability Analysis at the University of Sydney. Project Ref.: EV02033, July 2008. Defra, London, UK. <http://randd.defra.gov.uk> > Search for project no. EV02033, or
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/scp/research/themes/theme1/scale0708.htm>

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