



August 2009 Edition

New Greenhouse Gas Reporting Guidelines

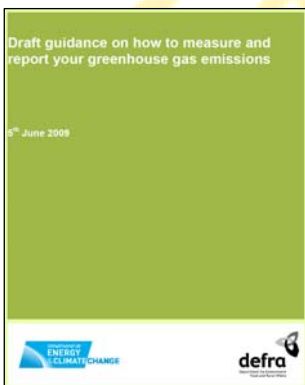
Defra has published draft guidance on greenhouse gas emissions reporting, as required by the Climate Change Act 2008. The objective of the guidance, which is aimed at all sectors and sizes of company, is to encourage the measuring and reporting of emissions as the first step towards managing and reducing emissions.

The guidance, which is based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol tools for organisations, explains how to establish organisational boundaries, collect activity data and apply emissions factors, in accordance with the GHG Protocol principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency and accuracy. The guidance also adopts the same three categories of emissions: Scope 1 (direct emission of GHGs), Scope 2 (indirect emissions from the purchase of energy) and Scope 3 (other indirect emissions in the supply chain).

Defra has developed a spreadsheet-based guide, available on its website, for use in calculating emissions from activity data. It applies Defra's own emission factors to calculate emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. The tool focuses on different activities, such as fuel combustion, process emissions, business travel, waste disposal and delivery and distribution

Currently, GHG emissions reporting is voluntary for most organisations, but, under the terms of the Climate Change Act, Defra is required to review the effectiveness of current reporting initiatives in reducing emissions, and to decide by April 2012 whether or not mandatory reporting is justified.

Defra's consultation on the guidance closed on 7th August 2009 and the final version of the guidelines is due to be finalised in October 2009. Key considerations will be the need to ensure that the guidance is appropriate for organisations with little or no experience of emissions reporting and how to persuade companies of the benefits of reporting on a voluntary basis. For a more detailed summary of the draft guidance, [click here](#).



CRA has over 30 years of experience of advising clients in relation to air emissions, waste management, utilities, management systems, monitoring, targeting and reporting, and data management.

For further information, contact our [Energy Team](#).

CRA will have a stand at the [IEMA Lean & Green Conference](#), on 22nd September 2009, at the Central Hall, London. We look forward to meeting clients old and new at this prestigious event.

Headline Stories

CRA Carbon Course Reaches Three Continents

CRA are pleased to report that the IEMA-approved Carbon and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Accounting and Management course has been delivered in countries spanning three continents: United Kingdom, Malaysia and Canada.

The next course is scheduled for October 2009. See our website (www.cra.co.uk) for details of course dates and locations, or find them on the IEMA website (www.iema.net) or in the Environmentalist.

Packaging Waste Offence Incurs Record Fine

The Environment Agency has developed a task force, the National Environmental Crime Team, to target waste crime. The task force is composed of 20 former law enforcement and forensic experts.

Liz Parkes, Head of Waste and Resource Management at the Environment Agency, said: 'This is not about people putting rubbish in the wrong bins - we concentrate on those individuals and companies whose illegal activities have the potential to cause serious damage to the environment. The increase in the level of fines reflects how seriously we and the courts are taking waste offences.'

Over the last year the fines for successful prosecution of waste offences have totalled £3million. This includes a record fine of £261,278 for packaging offences.

Our [Industrial Operations Team](#) provides UK and international regulatory support for waste.

Full UK Implementation of Environmental Damage Regulations

The Environment Agency have created [new regulations](#) tackling Environmental Damage that implements the 'polluter pays' principle. In July, the Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009 were implemented in N. Ireland. This completed the full UK introduction of the regulations.

Under the regulations, companies and persons are responsible for remediation and prevention of Environmental Damage. Environmental damage is said to be committed when there is

- damage to surface or ground water;
- contamination of land where there is a significant risk to human health; or
- damage to EU protected natural habitats or sites of scientific interest.

A quick guide to the Environmental Damage Regulations is available

[HERE](#)

The regulations do not apply to any Environmental Damage caused before the date of enforcement.

- England - 1 March 2009
- Wales - 6 May 2009
- Scotland - 24 June 2009
- N. Ireland - 24 July 2009

Anaerobic Digestion Could Be the Answer

With a greater drive towards sustainability, combined with the likely future uncertainty in both the cost and supply of energy, more and more companies are looking for alternative forms of renewable energy. One of the areas attracting considerable recent attention, particularly in the UK, is anaerobic digestion. The underlying principles and technology behind anaerobic digestion are well documented, since the process has been widely used in the treatment of both wastewater sludge and general organic wastes for decades.

Anaerobic digestion involves the breakdown of organic matter by bacteria in an environment with little or no oxygen to produce a viable fuel, biogas. The process can use virtually any biodegradable waste including wood chippings, grass clippings, waste paper, cardboard, sewage and animal waste. The solid or liquid residue resulting from the process (digestate) can also be utilised as a soil conditioner.

In recent years CRA has developed considerable expertise in applying anaerobic digestion techniques to provide alternative energy supplies for both residential and commercial clients, with major projects being completed in Canada, where anaerobic digestion is strongly supported. The first stage of this process involves the completion of an energy feasibility study to determine the current and future energy requirements for a given application, an assessment of local sources of potentially biodegradable material, and equally importantly, potential impacts on both the local community and adjacent properties. Should anaerobic digestion be identified as a feasible renewable energy source for a given application, then CRA are able to draw upon our considerable experience to provide assistance in both determining the most advantageous type of and location for an anaerobic digestion plant.

Anaerobic digestion is ideal for locations with poor connectivity to normal utility provisions and is particularly suited to applications sited in areas of large scale agricultural and food production. As well as generating energy, anaerobic digestion has the added advantage of reducing the amount of waste directed to landfill or composting whilst reducing emissions of climate changing gases. So if having greater control on future energy supply and costs coupled with a keen interest in sustainability and climate change is a cornerstone of your future business plan, then anaerobic digestion may just provide the necessary answer.

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