

February 2015

The CarbonNeutral Company's Communication on Progress for the United Nations Global Compact CEO Water Mandate

About The CarbonNeutral Company

The CarbonNeutral Company is a world-leading provider of solutions to businesses reducing their environmental impacts. Since 1997, our experience working with an unrivalled client list is combined with our comprehensive knowledge of sourcing high-quality environmental instruments, to meet clients' rapidly changing requirements. From renewable energy to carbon emissions measurement and offsetting, to water stewardship, building supply chain climate resilience and protecting biodiversity, we have a track record of innovation and quality in the pursuit of programmes that meet our clients' needs.

CEO Water Mandate

Launched in July 2007, the United Nations Global Compact CEO Water Mandate is a unique public-private initiative designed to assist companies in the development, implementation and disclosure of water sustainability policies and practices. The CarbonNeutral Company continues to endorse, engage and support its efforts. While the CarbonNeutral Company does not have a large direct water footprint, through the solutions we offer clients to manage their environmental impact we have the opportunity to help them more sustainably manage their water use. The CarbonNeutral Company signed up to and endorsed the CEO Water Mandate in September 2013. We remain committed to achieving progress with the Mandate's goals. This letter comprises our Communication on Progress to fulfil the requirements of the UN CEO Water Mandate Transparency Policy and we look forward to maintaining our commitment to these critically important initiatives which reflect and re-inforce The CarbonNeutral Company's business and mission.

Our efforts

- Throughout 2014 we ran a series of employee fund raising events with all proceeds donated to WaterAid whose aim, between 2009 and 2015, is to enable a further 25 million people to have access to safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation as a direct result of their work. The money raised through these efforts was matched by the company.
- All the paper we use is certified by the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council). Certification ensures that the papers we purchase are harvested and manufactured under strict regulations, and in a manner that helps to purify water and air while promoting sustainability and responsible management of the world's forests.
- We work with our building management agents to gather specific data on our water usage.
- We are members of the Water Footprint Network and aim to raise awareness of water footprinting for the clients we provide carbon footprinting services for.
- To raise awareness of water footprinting, in the 2014 revision of The CarbonNeutral Protocol, we recommended GHGs associated with water use are tracked within an organisational GHG inventory.
- In 2014 as part of our project level due diligence process when sourcing carbon credits, we started consistently evaluating and communicating those that have a water stewardship benefit.

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- The project level water stewardship benefits and impacts generally fit into three categories:
 - Water purification – providing clean drinking water for humans, through water filtration devices.
 - Water productivity – efficient water use through; solar hot water, aerated showers, drip irrigation.
 - Watershed protection – the enhancement & protection of natural water ecosystems through conservation and active land management.

A selection of the emission reduction projects we support that deliver water stewardship impacts

Water Purification

The Guatemala Water Filtration & Cookstoves Project, which is the first Gold Standard water treatment and cookstove project in the country, distributes water filters and stoves that enable access to clean water and improve cooking conditions by increasing fuel efficiency and reducing harmful indoor air pollution. It aims to reduce incidences of respiratory and water-borne disease which are serious problems for the poorer communities in the country, as well as diminish the costs of fuel wood.

Watershed Protection and Water Productivity

The Makira REDD+ Project, Madagascar plays an essential role in biodiversity protection by limiting deforestation in 360,000 hectares (more than twice the size of greater London) of the Makira forest and working with communities around the forest in a ‘protection zone’ of 320,000 hectares. Water scarcity has been a problem for communities in the area in terms of both health and agriculture. The project is improving water infrastructure by constructing community dams, irrigation channels, and wells and water points. As of December 2013, 22 water points/wells had been constructed and over 2,000 households were benefiting from one hydro-agricultural dam.

Watershed Protection and Water Purification

The Rimba Raya REDD+ Biodiversity Reserve Project based on the island of Borneo in Indonesia has developed a health care and immunisation programme and a floating clinic, which delivers medical services up and down the Seruyan River, effectively serving all of the communities in the project zone. Community surveys highlighted access to clean drinking water as a key priority in the area. As a result, the project has partnered with Potters for Peace (a member of the World Health Organisation’s International Network) to train local communities in making and selling inexpensive water filtration devices that are effective in eliminating approximately 99.88% of water-borne disease agents. The project has also begun distribution of colloidal silver water filtration systems to provide clean drinking water.

Concluding remarks

The CarbonNeutral Company is committed to building a business that delivers high quality solutions to our clients’ environmental challenges and enables them to deliver positive sustainable impacts to communities and the environment. We aim to serve as a leader by being transparent with our actions and outcomes, creating innovative solutions to meet our clients’ sustainability requirements and building awareness of water challenges throughout the world through our communications and outreach. By following the principles of the UNGC and the CEO Water Mandate, we believe we can continue to help business reduce its negative environmental impacts and create a sustainable future.