



## Carbon Neutral Sky

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### What is a carbon footprint?

A 'carbon footprint' is the total GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organization, event or product<sup>1</sup>. GHGs include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxides (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>). A carbon footprint is measured in units of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e), which allows the different GHGs, each with a different Global Warming Potential, to be compared on a like for like basis.

### What is carbon neutral?

GHGs contribute to climate change and are emitted either directly or indirectly by almost everything we do. To become carbon neutral you should first measure your carbon footprint, reduce your emissions and offset any remaining carbon emissions associated with your activities.

The end result is zero net CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions for the activity, business, or individual.

Our approach to our carbon neutral status is described below.

### What is carbon offsetting?

Carbon offsetting is when you compensate for your own, unavoidable emissions by paying someone to make an equivalent reduction in emissions elsewhere. Those reductions come in the form of carbon credits, equivalent to one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> each, which are bought and then 'retired' (i.e. taken off the market to stop anyone else claiming the same reduction). Offsetting is not a 'cure' for climate change, rather it should be the final action after all reasonable efforts to reduce emissions have been made. However, if done in the right way, offsetting can reduce the impact of our actions and help raise awareness of the issue<sup>2</sup>.

### Why did Sky decide to go carbon neutral?

In 2006, we decided to extend our environmental management programme to become carbon neutral. Tackling climate change was becoming more and more important, and we felt that we were in a position to take a lead in reducing and offsetting emissions.

### How is Sky carbon neutral?

We follow these three steps to become carbon neutral:

- **Measure** - We calculate our carbon footprint at the end of each financial year. To do this we calculate our CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from Scope 1 + 2 emissions i.e. our premises, company owned vehicles and refrigerant use and selected Scope 3 emissions including business travel and waste sent to landfill. (See [Measuring our emissions](#) for further information on what we include in our carbon footprint).
- **Reduce** - To be carbon neutral, we need to demonstrate that we have worked to avoid and reduce our emissions. We take steps to reduce emissions from transport and waste disposal and to improve energy efficiency. Performance against our tCO<sub>2</sub>e reduction targets can be reviewed in our [Bigger Picture Performance Report](#).
- **Offset** - Each year, we offset our gross Scope 1 + 2 emissions and selected gross Scope 3 emissions.
  - Scope 1 - Emissions from gas, diesel and steam energy use as well as refrigerant use and Sky owned/operated vehicle use.
  - Scope 2 - Emissions from electricity use
  - Scope 3 - Emissions from business travel and waste sent to landfill

We do this by investing in voluntary carbon emissions reduction (VCS) projects. We offset our gross emissions. Our gross emissions include the purchase of electricity for UK owned sites from a renewable energy tariff which

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<sup>1</sup> Source: The Carbon Trust 2011

<sup>2</sup> Source: based on Department for Energy and Climate Change, 2011



is supported by Levy Exemption Certificates (LECs) and Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGOs). In reporting our gross emissions we follow the DEFRA guidelines and report the emissions associated with the electricity using the grid average conversion factor. So, for every 1 tonne of gross CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions that Sky emits (Scope 1,2 and selected Scope 3), we're reducing 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e somewhere else in the world.

To do all of this, we work with a number of organisations for guidance and support including The CarbonNeutral Company.

### **Measuring & Reporting our emissions**

In order to measure our emissions, we have to clearly define the scope of our operations and the emissions associated with those operations. We use the World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development's (WBCSD) Greenhouse Gas Protocol - A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition) as a guide. The Greenhouse Gas Protocol categorises emissions as follows:

- Scope 1 - Direct emissions. These are emissions from sources a company owns or controls.
- Scope 2 - Electricity Indirect emissions. These are emissions from the electricity that a company buys to use in its equipment or operations.
- Scope 3 - Other indirect emissions. These are emissions from activities that are relevant to a company, but not within its direct control. For example such as transport in vehicles not owned by the company.

Under the WRI/WBCSD Greenhouse Gas Protocol, companies must account for all Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Scope 3 emissions are accounted for on an optional basis only, as the company does not have direct control over these, and therefore may not be able to measure them.

Sky report publically both its gross and net emissions. Sky's carbon footprint is established by measuring the following CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions:

- Scope 1 – emissions from all its premises (gas, diesel), refrigerant use, company owned vehicles (petrol, diesel, LPG), and van fleet (petrol, diesel).
- Scope 2 – emissions from operational electricity consumption.

We are also working with a number of our suppliers to measure and reduce indirect CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions. These would be classified as Scope 3 emissions by the WRI/WBCSD Greenhouse Gas Protocol and are separately reported in our The Bigger Picture Review.

- Scope 3 – emissions from Sky employee business travel (flights and non-company owned vehicles), waste sent to landfill. Other Scope 3 emissions we include in our reporting but are not included in our carbon neutrality are emissions from suppliers and business partners including emissions from Sky's Local Loop Unbundling activities at BT OpenReach Exchanges and outsourced engineers.

### **Offsetting our carbon emissions**

We offset our emissions by investing in projects provided by The CarbonNeutral Company. As climate change is a global issue, saving emissions anywhere in the world will help. Each year we purchase offsets for the coming financial year, based on the previous year's emissions. At the end of the year, we reconcile the offsets for the reporting year to ensure that we had purchased the correct amount to cover the emissions for that reporting year.

A buffer of 5% of Sky's carbon footprint has been calculated and offset.

To maintain our status as a carbon neutral company, we purchased carbon credits that have been verified to the Voluntary Carbon Standard. This is a recognised international standard for voluntary GHG offsets.

We work with The CarbonNeutral Company to ensure that, in line with best practice, the vintages of projects we invest in match as closely as possible, the period when our emissions were generated. A list of the projects we have invested in is below:



Year	Vintage	Project	Country	Standard
1	2006	NZ Wind	New Zealand	GS
	2006	Bulgaria Micro Hydro	Bulgaria	VCS
	2007	Bulgaria Micro Hydro	Bulgaria	VCS
2	2007	Shangyi Manjing Windfarm	China	VCS
	2006	Shangyi Manjing Windfarm	China	VCS
	2006	Inner Mongolia Wind Power	China	VCS
	2007	Link Canal Hydro	India	CDM
	2006	Wind Power (PPL)	India	VCS
3	2007	Guizhou Hydro Power (TR2)	China	VCS
	2006	Inner Mongolia Wind Power	China	VCS
	2007	Inner Mongolia Wind Power	China	VCS
	2006	Tirunelveli Wind Power	India	VCS
	2006	Kotmar Waste Heat Recovery	India	VCS
	2007	Kotmar Waste Heat Recovery	India	VCS
Reconciliation Aug'09	2007	Guizhou Hydro Power (TR2)	China	VCS
	2008	Beijin Hydro Power	China	VCS
4	2002-08	Uchindle -Mapanda Reforestation Project	Tanzania	VCS
Reconciliation Aug'10	2009	Bogeda Wind Power	China	VCS
5	2010	Hebei-Wind Power	China	VCS
	2010	Bogeda Wind Power	China	VCS
	2010	Panchpatta Wind Power	India	VCS
	2010	Maharashtra Wind Power	India	VCS
6	2011	Bhachu Wind Farm project	India	VCS
	2011	Songshan Wind Power project	China	VCS
	2011	Tensaki Wind Power project	India	VCS
7 2012/2013	2012	Guazhou Wind Power Project	India	VCS
	2012	Meru and Nanyuki Community Reforestation Project (credits retired 2014)	Kenya	VCS
8 2013/14	2012	Andipatti Wind Power Project	India	VCS
	2011	Songyuan Wind Power Project	China	VCS
9 2014/15	2012	Andipatti Wind Power Project	India	VCS
	2011	Songyuan Wind Power Project	China	VCS

We work with the CarbonNeutral Company and follow their Protocol to ensure that we have maintained and reported our carbon neutral status accurately. Our carbon neutral policy has been assured by Deloitte LLP