Carbon management and the ‘greening’ of conservation organisations in Cambridge

**Thematic Area:**
Towards a Green Economy

**Start date:** 9th December 2011

**Status:** Active

**Key contacts**
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**Project description**

In 2008, a report commissioned by the Cambridge Conservation Forum (CCF) and UNEP-WCMC, reviewed the state of the voluntary carbon market and how organisations in Cambridge offset and reduce their carbon emissions. Building on this report, the Shared Challenges Programme brought together representatives from a range of CCF and CCI partner organisations and the University of Cambridge on 9th December 2010 for an update on the steps they take to carbon offsetting and reduction, to share experience and to think about developing potential common approaches to managing carbon emissions.

Naturally, organisations and University departments take a wide variety of different approaches to both offsetting and carbon management. A CCI-CCF Carbon Management Task Force was therefore formed to pool this experience and knowledge. Key activities of the Task Force are to:

1) Share information and knowledge about successful emissions reduction strategies
2) Share recommendations on methods and tools to help reduce carbon, including running remote meetings and software for video-conferencing and carbon budgeting
3) Share information about problems encountered and offsetting opportunities to help organisations make informed choices about where and how to offset
4) Produce guidance on how organisations have successfully presented offsetting and reduction programs to their board & funders

**Aims**

This project aims to share information and knowledge about successful carbon reduction strategies used by CCI partners, departments and colleges in Cambridge and to draw upon this experience to find ways in which conservation organisations can reduce their carbon footprint in all aspects of their operation.
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**Key activities**

A joint CCI and CCF meeting at UNEP-WCMC (in December 2010) discussed the carbon emissions reduction strategies and carbon offsetting approaches employed by conservation organisations based in and around Cambridge and departments and colleges in the University of Cambridge.

Following the establishment of a CCI-CCF Carbon Management Task Force, a series of meetings in 2011 and 2012 discussed ways in which organisations could share information and knowledge about successful emissions reduction strategies.

**Outputs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A joint CCI &amp; CCF workshop: Carbon management and offsetting (9th Dec 2012)</td>
<td>This workshop aimed to progress the thinking on reducing the footprints of conservation organizations across Cambridge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report by the CCI-CCF Carbon Management Task Force: Reducing the carbon footprint of conservation organisations</td>
<td>This report summarises successful carbon reduction strategies used by CCI partners in Cambridge, and highlights best practice from elsewhere.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Conservation impact**

This project has catalyzed continued discussion about ways to reduce the carbon footprint of conservation organisations based in Cambridge. This has facilitated changes in practice by some organisations already, and it is hoped that the launch of the new report will stimulate further changes in and outside CCI. This will benefit conservation by reducing emissions that could cause climate change and by saving money, which can then be spent on conservation activities.

**CCI partners involved:**

- Cambridge Conservation Forum (CCF)
- UNEP-WCMC
- BirdLife International
- RSPB
- TRAFFIC
- The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
- Fauna and Flora International (FFI)
- Departments in the University of Cambridge, including Zoology, Geography and Estates Management

**Other organisations**

- Natural England

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