

Case Study - SaaS/Cloud Computing Firm Benefits from FCS Utility Management Solution

PROJECT NAME	SaaS/Cloud Computing Firm's Data Collection 2013
Client	Confidential
Location	San Francisco, USA
Industry	SaaS/Cloud Computing
Products and Services	Data Entry Management/GHG data collection and processing
Deliverables and Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced the time needed to collect Greenhouse Gas (GHG) data from multiple offices and data centers across the globe by 50% • Analyzed, standardized, and verified GHG data from a number of disparate data sources around the globe • Completed the company's GHG Inventory in time for their annual CDP submittal

Challenge

Through their ongoing operations, all companies big or small have an impact on the environment. This impact can come from the energy and resources they are using in the course of their operations or simply from their staff's daily commute to and from the office. Accordingly, many companies are becoming increasingly aware of their carbon footprint and the potential negative impact their footprint has on the environment; the realization is that reduction is essential. In September 2013, a major global cloud computing company based in San Francisco, California, needed a utility management solution to help them gain insight into their carbon footprint through a GHG Inventory.

As one of the top performing cloud computing companies, the Client implemented an environmental sustainability program which covers its 61 offices and data centers across the globe. This sustainability program ensures that the impacts of its services and business operations on the environment, as well as that of its clients, are reduced — including GHG. Each year, the company prepares its GHG Inventory as part of its CDP submittal. This annual report aids the Client in increasing awareness of their GHG emissions hot spots, enabling them to plan and strategize for its reduction.

The challenge that the Client needed to address was that the collection, standardization, analysis, and verification of the necessary records from its global office and data center locations was a complex and time consuming task. For instance, in order to accurately calculate GHG emissions and assign the corresponding emissions factors, the Client needed access to all of their office and data center utility consumption data — a huge amount of data! To ensure that this large amount of data that constituted their GHG Inventory for the CDP submittal was accurately collected, standardized, analyzed, and verified, this Client needed the help of a professional, reliable, and experienced team of experts with a proven track record in handling multiple-process requirements — FirstCarbon Solutions (FCS).

Solution

FCS conducted numerous consultations with the Client's San Francisco-based sustainability team to determine the scope of the project and the best plan to capture and analyze the GHG data.

Applying the various forms of indirect emissions, within one week, FCS formulated an appropriate plan that mapped to the Client's required management process work flow — across 13 countries. The initial step was to set-up a dedicated project and data repository platform to monitor and track all collected data, and to track the correspondence between FCS, the Client and its building managers. In order to gain access to the various utility data needed, FCS contacted the Client's building managers directly and, in several cases, verified information where the facility contacts were no longer updated. The FCS team analyzed the data and conducted a gap analysis between available and missing data. Prior to uploading to the project and data repository, FCS conducted a full-scale quality check for anomalies and analyzed all data received based on the specifications of the Client's preferred GHG management system.

The FCS Advantage

FCS provided a completely outsourced solution to GHG data collection and processing, allowing the Client to focus on running its business while proactively driving cost savings and facility efficiencies. The FCS solution provided the Client with full insight into its GHG inventory that allowed management to make smart business decisions and identify potential avenues to reduce GHG and waste. FCS provided expert and comprehensive data capture and troubleshooting, robust reporting and best in class analysis capabilities.

As CDP's Silver Carbon Calculation Partner/Gold Consultancy Partner and Response Checker, FCS helped the Client to complete their GHG Inventory requirement on time for their CDP submittal. FCS's scoring experience also assisted the Client in understanding the data management requirements associated with the CDP submittal. The FCS team that worked on this project included some of the most experienced and knowledgeable energy consultants and program managers. Only FCS fully integrates its energy consulting services with software, program management and unmatched expertise in back office data processing to put our clients on the path to sustainable profitability.

