Carbon management

This Reuters article, “Most firms get greenhouse gas reports wrong,” shows that most of the world's largest companies do not report their greenhouse gas emissions correctly. The Environmental Investment Organisation found that just 37 percent of the world's 800 largest companies disclosed complete data and correctly adopted the basic principles of emissions reporting and only 21 percent had their data externally verified.

Possible case for classroom discussion: Only one firm, German chemicals producer BASF, reported emissions across its entire value chain - from sources such as business travel, transport, distribution and investments. This transparency placed it at number one in the rankings.

CSSI arranges for Gustavson’s greenhouse gas emissions reports to be externally audited and we measure our emissions across the province’s mandated scopes, which in our case includes the natural gas that we burn for heat (Scope 1), the electricity we use in our offices and classrooms (Scope 2), and the paper we use (Scope 3).

In broader terms, though, Scope 3 also includes greenhouse gas emissions from travel, and this is where Gustavson has chosen to exceed the university’s and province’s standards. For the past three years, we’ve been measuring our commuting and air travel footprints so we have a more full and accurate picture of our impact on the world.

On May 7, Rob Abbott of the Province of BC’s Climate Action Secretariat, and Jay Gillette (MBA ’11) of Pacific Carbon Trust, gave Gustavson an overview of BC’s climate action initiatives and outcomes and the role and accountability of Pacific Carbon Trust as a selector and monitor of projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They described to a full house of faculty and staff some of Gustavson’s options for offsetting our emissions. The video of their presentation will be available on our SharePoint site soon.

A summary of Gustavson’s 2011 greenhouse gas emissions is available on CSSI’s website, and the 2012 report will be available soon – it’s with the external auditors now.

Innovation

CSSI is hosting the Network for Business Sustainability’s webinar “Innovating for Sustainability” on Wednesday, May 15, 9-10AM, in BEC402.

The webinar will look at the three stages of innovation, based on rigorous international research: best practices for innovating at each stage - including strategies such as back-casting, biomimicry and "jugaad" innovation; how companies such as Xerox, Kraft, Interface and Lafarge are putting the research findings into practice; and tips for managers based on Tim Hortons' Cup to Tray remanufacturing program.

Presenter Richard Adams, PhD, is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Exeter Business School, an experienced systematic reviewer with wide experience conducting innovation research to inform policy and practice.

This webinar is based on the report Innovating for Sustainability: A Guide for Executives. Richard Adams and his research team scoured the best 127 academic and industry sources to produce a systematic review on the topic.

To be added to or removed from the Communiqué distribution list, or to contribute a link or story idea, please email cssi@uvic.ca.