



Welfare Hire Verification of Carbon Handprint August 2023

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Introduction

Welfare Hire Nationwide Limited (Welfare Hire) commissioned Sustainable Advantage to assure a set of carbon calculations carried out by the company.

The objective of the original calculations were to compare the carbon emissions of Welfare Hire's products to those of industry-standard comparatives. This is known as a carbon handprint, which is about comparing two equal products or services and their climate impact. A useful purpose of a carbon handprint is to demonstrate to customers the carbon emissions saved as a result of purchasing/using a company's products or services instead of traditional industry options.

This short report summarises the approach that Sustainable Advantage undertook to verify the carbon calculations carried out by Welfare Hire. As part of this process, support was provided to ensure that the end documents could be successfully verified and if required in the future, interpreted by another party. Finally, as an accompaniment to this report, Sustainable Advantage has issued Welfare Hire with a Certificate of Verification which can be used as evidence of this assurance process.

Approach

In February 2023, an initial meeting was had between Welfare Hire's Commercial Director and two members of the Sustainable Advantage team, including the Head of Net Zero and a Senior Sustainability Consultant. A number of subsequent meetings were held to clarify the methodology used and to support the development of the final calculation documents.

The process to assure the calculations and documents involved the analysis of four elements:

- 1.) Carbon emissions relating to the energy consumption of Welfare Hire's units in comparison to industry norms
- 2.) Carbon emissions related to the servicing of Welfare Hire's WCs (water and waste) in comparison to industry norms
- 3.) Carbon emissions related to the towing of Welfare Hire's units to and from sites (on delivery and project completion) in comparison to industry norms
- 4.) The method statement explaining the steps taken by Welfare Hire in determining the above calculations

The assurance process was iterative in nature and resulted in a number of consultations and improvements made to the documents over a series of weeks.

Observations and advice provided

It was assumed that all raw data underpinning the calculations was accurate. Calculations were checked and based on the data provided and highlighted in additional columns in the spreadsheets.

A summary of fuel consumed and the emissions related to this for all three areas (power, servicing and towing) were calculated according to weekly, monthly and annual averages. Data sources used for these calculations were taken from telemetry reports, secondary data gathered from industry-referenced websites, and in some cases anecdotal evidence based on conversations with industry experts and assumptions based on the experience and knowledge of Welfare Hire management.

In order to provide a baseline for comparison, information on industry norms was based on both anecdotal and desktop research-based evidence. Conservative estimates were made in several areas.

The review found a handful of relatively minor issues which were highlighted and rectified by Welfare Hire. These included:

- The conversion factor between CO₂g/km and CO₂g/mile
- All sources needed to be inserted and referenced
- Errors in calculations (e.g. an incorrect multiplier was identified)
- Advice was given to support the clear presentation of the data, calculations and methodology followed

Steps taken by Welfare Hire

Welfare Hire management undertook a number of steps to ensure that the final documents could be verified:

- Method statement was updated
- Assumptions and sources updated and referenced
- Corrections were made to rectify errors identified
- Final summary document was provided which explicitly shows the comparison of Welfare Hire's products to industry norms

Conclusion

The quality and completeness of the data used to carry out the calculations were deemed to be a fair basis for the calculations. All queries were clarified and corrections made. The final documents provided reasonably demonstrate the carbon emissions saved by using Welfare Hire products and services in comparison to industry norms.

Industry standards may change, as may the performance of Welfare Hire units. It is therefore advised that a carbon handprint calculation is carried out annually by Welfare Hire to ensure that data, calculations and comparisons remain relevant.