



EnergyQuote's Carbon and Sustainability Consultant, Kevin Tarr-Graham, addresses some of the key environmental issues currently affecting our customers.

Carbon Reduction Commitment – Are you prepared?

Despite the looming start date of 1st April 2010, industry reports suggest many businesses across the UK are still unprepared for their participation in the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) scheme. Here's a quick round-up to keep you aware of significant dates in the CRC timeline and the next steps you should be considering:

Significant dates and deadlines in the first 18 months of the scheme

1st April 2010: The first 'compliance year' begins. Organisations need to register between 1st April and 30th September 2010: Registration packs started to be sent out in September 2009.

1st April 2011: The second compliance year begins. Organisations will need to purchase carbon allowances to cover their actual energy emissions in the year 2010-11 and their forecast emissions for the year 2011-12.

July 2011: Each organisation must submit a 'footprint report' for the first year (2010-11) by the last working day of July 2011.

October 2011: The first 'recycling payment' will be made, returning all the money raised in April 2011 to the participants. A performance league table will be published with significant reputational impacts for all companies covered by the scheme.

Checklist of next steps

If you have not already considered your obligations within the CRC then we'd suggest you undertake the following steps as a matter of priority.

1. Analyse whether you are required to participate in the CRC. (Inclusion Assessment)
2. Understand and calculate likely exposure in terms of carbon

emissions and carbon allowance costs. Speak to the person responsible for energy (energy/environmental/CR manager) and request:

- Footprint data for 2008 period
 - Estimated footprint for the first year of the CRC, 2010-11.
3. Profit from taking early action
 - Apply for the Carbon Trust Standard while you can
 - Install voluntary Automatic Metering
 4. Consider how you will finance the purchase of allowances and account for your carbon assets and liabilities
 5. Register with the Environment Agency from April 2010

If you are interested in discussing your company's CRC requirements please contact me for a no obligation discussion to explore how we can guide you effectively from compliance to competitive advantage in your specific industry sector.

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