



Emory University Atlanta, Georgia Assessment

SCHOOL

Emory University, Private, 4-year, 13,000+ students, Atlanta, Georgia.

ABSTRACT

Trucost is a service that analyzes the carbon footprint of product suppliers. Conducting a Trucost analysis facilitates economic and environmental transparency. Emory University participated in a Trucost Carbon Hotspot Footprint analysis to help identify which commercial suppliers had the largest carbon footprint. Measuring carbon helps shed light on environmental risks and opportunities. Emory University conducted this analysis as part of the implementation of its newly adopted Climate Action Plan.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Goals

With the implementation of the Trucost analysis, Emory hoped to identify key suppliers with the largest contribution to Emory's supply chain carbon footprint. The results of the Trucost analysis identify the carbon contribution of over 200 different suppliers. Managing carbon in supply chains is an essential component of sustainable business practices. Emory anticipates working with top emitters to find creative solutions to decrease supply chain carbon output, or if necessary to find alternative suppliers for those areas with the highest output (relative to use).

Within the next 2-3 years Emory University will take the data supplied by Trucost to begin dialogues with suppliers with the highest carbon footprint and to hopefully begin to implement changes with the ultimate goal of decreasing Emory's supply chain carbon footprint. These initial first steps are part of our larger university goal of decreasing our carbon footprint 25% by 2015 and ultimately 50% by 2050.

Accomplishments and Outcomes

Our first goal of identifying key contributors to our supply chain carbon footprint was successfully completed.

The impetus for this project was the adoption and implementation of Emory University's Climate Action Plan. This document outlines specific goals and actions to help Emory become more sustainable and to facilitate a substantial decrease in our overall energy expenditure. Copies of Emory's Climate Action plan can be found here: http://sustainability.emory.edu/cgi-bin/MySQLdb?VIEW=/viewfiles/view_press.txt&pressid=700

Identifying ways in which we can decrease our carbon footprint is not only good for meeting Emory University's carbon reduction goals, but also for promoting environmentally sustainable business practices. Emory University, is a big carbon emitter and all steps to decrease this output, ultimately has a positive impact on local environments on and beyond campus.

Challenges and Responses

Many of the companies that TruCost contacted to report their data did not respond to the data request. Therefore, it is difficult to determine if TruCost's initial analysis is a complete representation of our supply chain carbon emissions. Additionally, TruCost's initial report miscalculated Georgia Power's contribution to our carbon emissions and so recalculation has been necessary. Phase two, specifically, the identification of ways to decrease the carbon footprint of suppliers or to change suppliers will likely bring some challenges, as it is a more iterative process.

Campus Climate Action: Your School's Carbon Footprint

The end goal for utilizing a Trucost Analysis was to identify ways to decrease our supply chain carbon footprint. Consequently this project directly addresses global climate change, by helping to identify key areas with room for improving Emory's supply chain energy carbon expenditure.

Commentary and Reflection

The Trucost Analysis process is a fantastic way to examine a business related supply chain through an environmental lens. The analysis helps identify the top, most significant carbon contributors by name and by spending category. It gives a quantitative baseline, which clearly shows where there is room for improvement and where change can occur.

ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Leaders and Supporters

Emory's Office of Sustainability Initiatives and Emory's Purchasing Department partnered to initiate and manage the University's relationship with TruCost.

Funding and Resources

The TruCost analysis cost \$10,000 and paid by the Office of Sustainability Initiatives and Emory University's Purchasing Department.

Education and Community Outreach

At this point, the local community has not been engaged in the TruCost analysis.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contacts

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MORE ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL

Campus Sustainability History

Emory University is at the forefront of sustainability. Emory has one of the largest inventories of LEED certified, green buildings (by square footage) in America. In both the graduate and undergraduate programs, Emory works hard to integrate sustainability into the classroom with a variety of curriculum opportunities. Despite being located in Atlanta, a city not known for robust public transportation, Emory works hard to promote alternative transportation including implementing a bikeshare program, running Cliff shuttle service (100% alternatively fueled), and providing benefits for alternative commuters. In addition to the afore mentioned accomplishments, Emory University has an innovative water conservation system that includes the collection of grey water and rainwater by cisterns for irrigation purposes and the use of heat wheels to pull moisture from the air while ventilating buildings. Emory recycles and composts, provides locally grown food and has identified over half of the campus as protected green space. Furthermore Emory strives to decrease energy consumption from 2005 baseline levels by 25% by 2015 and decrease overall carbon emissions 50% by 2050. Emory University's Office of Sustainability Initiatives is currently working on a variety of concurrent projects focused on decreasing Emory's carbon footprint, engaging students and faculty alike and improving sustainability education across campus. For more information check out our website: <http://sustainability.emory.edu/>