



# CARBON ACCOUNTING 101: A CHECKLIST FOR BEGINNERS



The path to sustainable business practices has never been more crucial. As concerns about climate change rise, the importance of carbon accounting cannot be understated. If you're wondering where to begin, you're in the right place. This Carbon Accounting 101 guide is designed to help businesses like yours navigate the fundamentals of carbon management. Let's dive in!



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## 1. Understand Carbon Accounting

- ☐ What is Carbon Accounting? Carbon Accounting refers to the process by which businesses measure and report their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Think of it as a ledger for your business's environmental impact!
- ☐ Why is it Important? Beyond being an environmental responsibility, carbon accounting can also offer insights into cost-saving opportunities, enhance brand reputation, and ensure compliance with growing regulatory requirements.

## 2. Get Acquainted with the Terminology

- ☐ Greenhouse Gases (GHGs): These are the gases responsible for the greenhouse effect. Common GHGs include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O).
- ☐ Carbon Equivalent: A metric measure used to compare the emissions from various GHGs based on their global warming potential.
- ☐ Carbon Footprint: The total amount of GHG emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organization, event, or product.



### 3. Explore the Different Emission Scopes

It's crucial to understand the three scopes of emissions to measure your carbon footprint accurately:

- ☐ Scope 1 (Direct Emissions): These originate from sources owned or controlled by the business, like company vehicles or furnaces.
- ☐ Scope 2 (Energy Indirect Emissions): Emissions from electricity, steam, heat, and cooling purchased by the business.
- ☐ Scope 3 (Other Indirect Emissions): These are usually the trickiest to calculate and include emissions from activities like business travel, waste disposal, and supply chain processes.

### 4. Equip Yourself with the Right Tools

Gathering data is foundational to carbon accounting. Depending on the size and complexity of your business, you might consider:

- ☐ Carbon Accounting Software: A myriad of tools exists to help businesses gather, measure, and analyze their emissions data.
- ☐ External Consultants: For those unsure about handling it in-house, experts can guide and manage the process.

### 5. Start Data Collection

Begin with gathering data related to:

- ☐ Energy consumption: Check utility bills, fuel purchase records, and any renewable energy certificates.
- ☐ Business travel: Account for air, rail, or road travel. Even daily employee commutes can add up.
- ☐ Supply chain operations: Engage with suppliers to understand their carbon footprint.





## 6. Data Analysis and Reporting

Once you have your data:

- ☐ **Verify its accuracy:** Ensure consistent measurement methodologies.  
Benchmark: Compare against industry standards or past company data to understand performance.
- ☐ **Report:** Share your findings. Transparent reporting can enhance stakeholder trust.

## 7. Set Emission Reduction Targets

With insights in hand:

- ☐ **Choose realistic targets:** Whether it's a 5% reduction over two years or becoming carbon neutral by 2030, make sure your goals are achievable.
- ☐ **Plan interventions:** Invest in energy-efficient technology, promote remote work, or transition to renewable energy sources.

## 8. Continuously Review and Update

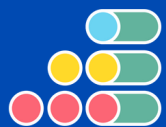
Carbon accounting isn't a one-time affair:

- ☐ **Regularly review your data:** This ensures continuous improvement.
- ☐ **Stay updated with industry trends:** New technologies, methodologies, or regulatory requirements can emerge.





# ABOUT



# CarbonAnalytics

**Carbon Analytics** empowers sustainable journeys through integrated carbon accounting. Our platform enables transparency, helping you make informed decisions across the value chain. Through complex data insights, we ensure precise carbon accounting using primary and secondary data. This approach creates a comprehensive sustainability profile of your organisation and your value chain.



## Ready to Dive Deeper into Carbon Accounting?

Embarking on the carbon accounting journey is not just an environmentally responsible move; it's a business-smart one. The process might seem intricate at first, but with dedication and the right tools, any business can rise to the challenge.

Dive deeper into the world of carbon management with CarbonAnalytics. Sign up for our platform today and embrace a future where every byte of carbon data counts!

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