

Ultimately Eco Cleaning Ltd

Small changes can make a big difference

Ultimately Eco Cleaning Ltd was founded as an environmentally friendly and ethical company. We offer healthy, ethical and green cleaning services. The business was established in May 2008. We are a fast growing environmentally friendly cleaning service agency offering domestic and commercial cleaning throughout London.

We supply a range of environmentally friendly cleaning products and materials by some of the best brands available in the UK and Europe: ENJO, NORWEX, E-cloth, Method, Ecover, BioD, Sonett, and Natural House.

Our team consists of reliable, efficient, fully vetted and trustworthy people, who will look after your home or office to the best of their ability. As a company we strive to maintain strong ethical standards and provide professional development for our team members.

Cleaners are paid the minimum living wage for London, currently £8 (the baseline is £6.50 if they are in training). We provide personal and professional support and training, i.e. coaching, English classes and apprenticeship programmes.

It is one of our main objectives to raise the profile of the cleaning profession and practice. We keep very close to our hearts the education and protection of our clients' and cleaners' health, and we are committed to a sustainable future. We are committed to not only clean effectively but save energy, water, cleaning materials and products wherever possible.

Our company operates throughout all areas of London and we use public transportation – we do not own any vehicles. Our website gives detailed information about the services we provide: www.ultimatelyeco.com.

Carbon Neutral Declaration

Since 1 January 2012, all Ultimately Eco Cleaning Ltd cleaning services have been carbon neutral. We take into account the CO₂ emissions from our own operations, transport of all staff and operatives, the consumables we purchase or supply to clients, and even the water and energy we use whilst on customer sites. We do this so that we can offer a carbon neutral service to our clients.

PAS 2060 Carbon Neutral Declaration

"Carbon neutrality of the operations, transport, purchasing and cleaning services of Ultimately Eco Cleaning Ltd, was achieved by Ultimately Eco Cleaning Ltd in accordance with PAS 2060, at 6th February 2013, with a commitment to maintain this indefinitely, for the period commencing 1 January 2012, Ultimately Eco Cleaning Ltd self-declared".

Signed on behalf of Ultimately Eco Cleaning Ltd:



Date: 6th February 2013

Explanation of Carbon Neutral Status

Since 1 January 2012, all our cleaning services have been carbon neutral. We take into account the CO₂ emissions from our own operations, transport of full-time staff and cleaners, the consumables we purchase or supply to clients, and even the water and energy we use whilst on customer sites. We do this so that we can offer a carbon neutral service to our clients.

We believe that offsetting forms a positive part of our much wider sustainability plan. We know it isn't the ultimate answer, although it does make a difference. Our main commitment is to reduce our own emissions, those of our clients, and those of others in our community.

Whatever CO₂ emissions from our cleaning service we have not been able to reduce ourselves, we offset by investing in specially chosen projects from around the world. These projects deliver carbon credits equivalent to the amount we needed to balance out our own emissions from our commercial cleaning services.

We have looked carefully at the offsetting projects we have chosen to support, and have chosen to work with the We Forest and Carbon Clear organisations. Whilst We Forest offset projects are not accredited to the criteria laid out in the Gold Standard or Voluntary Carbon Standard, we believe they are of a high enough standard. The Carbon Clear offset credits are accredited to these standards.

The carbon footprint of Ultimately Eco Cleaning Ltd, from 1st January to 31st December 2012, was 10.5 tonnes CO₂e. As shown in Table 1, the (public) transport used by cleaners contributes the greatest proportion of the total Ultimately Eco Cleaning Ltd carbon footprint. The next major contributor is the purchasing of consumables used in the delivery of the service (organic cleaning products, cloths, legal and other business services, hire cars, etc). As Ultimately Eco wants to offer a carbon neutral service emissions generated at client sites are included.

Table 1. Carbon Emissions by Source

Total Carbon Emissions	Tonnes CO ₂ e
Transport	6.6
Consumables	3.2
Electricity - office	0.1
Gas - office	0.2
Water on customer site	0.0
Hoovers on customer site	0.5
Total	10.5

The footprint was calculated using the defra guidance for how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions (small business user guide) – the most relevant methodology for small businesses in the UK, with reference to DECC’s carbon neutrality guidance (September 2009), and emission factors from defra (May 2012 update).

Table 2. Emissions included and excluded from calculations

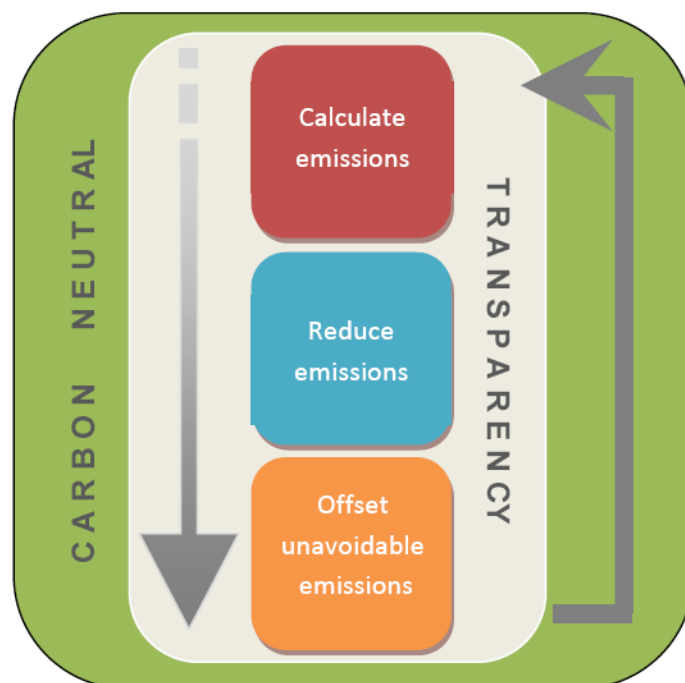
	Included / Excluded	Data source
Scope 1 & 2 emissions		
Purchased electricity for office	Included	Primary
Purchased gas for office	Included	Primary
Scope 3 emissions		
Business travel – non-owned vehicles	Included	Primary
Commuting – non-owned vehicles	Included	Estimated
Distribution – non-owned vehicles	Excluded	N/A
Water used at office	Excluded	N/A
Electricity on customer sites for Hoovers	Included	Estimated
Water and wastewater on customer sites	Included	Estimated
Purchased consumables and business supplies	Included	Primary
Waste / recycling from office	Excluded	N/A

As Table 2 shows, scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions are included – given the cost effectiveness or technical feasibility of collecting the data. Staff commuting to client sites is included. All exclusions based on materiality and availability of resource at an SME for this kind of analysis. Fuel & electricity use is from primary data. Emissions from supply chain consumables are calculated from annual spend data and using defra conversion factors. Estimates were constructed for water & electricity used on client sites.

Kate Belcheva provided all Ultimately Eco data. David Collins of Future Conversations provided the consultancy support to produce the carbon footprint and all explanatory documents.

As with any carbon footprint calculation, uncertainties associated with conversion factors, measurements (especially in the first year) & quantification can be expected. This ought not to stop an organisation from engaging in an exercise such as this.

Fig 1: Graphical representation of carbon neutrality



(Fig 1 taken from the DECC guidance on carbon neutrality – Sept 2009)

Carbon Management Plan (2013)

Strategies for Greenhouse Gas reductions include:

1. We are committed to not only clean effectively but save energy, water, cleaning materials and products wherever possible. Our company operates throughout all areas of London and we use public transportation – we do not own any vehicles.
2. We supply a range of environmentally friendly cleaning products and materials by some of the best brands available in the UK and Europe: ENJO, NORWEX, E-cloth, Method, Ecover, BioD, Sonett, and Natural House.
3. In 2012 we supported a cause to promote cycling as a mean of transport and travel. A team of 13 cyclists amongst whom Kate Belcheva's disabled father cycled over 4,000km from Bulgaria to London for the opening of the Olympic Games.
4. In 2013 we plan to introduce Barclays bikes and free bicycles for short journeys in central London. We also plan to offer free training for staff in how to use Barclays Bicycles and about road safety in London.
5. We will continue to select cleaners to work on client premises as close to their home location as possible.
6. In 2012 we predominantly used microfiber and fibre technology using propylene and polyethylene fibres. In 2013 we commit to finding a new supplier of polypropylene microfiber cloths and mop fibres. We also can introduce bamboo and hemp fibres which use no pesticides are renewable resources and use very little water during their production.
7. In 2013 we aim to introduce much more detailed and professional training for all third party workers and our own staff – understanding the vision of the business is crucial to implementing the carbon neutral and environmental strategies for the business.
8. By training our team more specifically we can reduce the waste of chemicals, water, transport / travel miles and electricity.
9. We will improve and more widely implement the refill programme – where we refill instead of supplying new bottles of cleaning sprays to the clients.
10. Our main aims for 2013 and beyond is to develop the business as a high achieving social enterprise, and to maintain carbon neutral status for as long as the business exists.
11. As a result of all these activities the carbon footprint of the business will decrease (per £ of turnover) by 10% this coming year.

This Carbon Management Plan will be updated on an annual basis. The effectiveness of GHG reduction strategies will be assessed during this process.

Offset strategy

We have chosen to offset our emissions with Carbon Clear and We Forest (with our offset split approximately two thirds : one thirds between the organisations).

The Carbon Clear offset credits meet all the clauses of PAS 2060. Ultimately Eco Cleaning Ltd will request they supply the information set out in Clause 9.2 of PAS 2060 with the certificate.

We have chosen to offset some of our emissions with the charity We Forest also. We Forest has not gone down the accreditation / certification route with its offsets. However, we believe that in spirit and principle their offset projects aspire to the requirements in Clause 9.1 of PAS 2060. As trees are planted post carbon offset purchase the number of trees purchased is far more than would be purchased if the offset had already been achieved before purchase. Within a period of two or more years, the carbon offset by trees planted by We Forest far exceeds the carbon offset required and purchased.