



## **BT Scotland**

“Reducing Our Emissions” - An overview of BT’s carbon strategy

### **The Challenge:**

BT accounts for 0.7 per cent of UK electricity consumption. It needs power to run its buildings and network and has a large fleet of mobile workers including engineers, who clock up 100,000 miles a day in Scotland. Its aim is to make sure that the positive impacts of ICT outweigh the negative.

BT reduced carbon emissions by 60 per cent between 1996 and 2006. It now aims to extend its reduction to 80 per cent by 2016 – a very ambitious target.

### **The Process:**

BT strategy is to reduce emissions; influence the supply chain – 12,500 in Scotland – to produce lower carbon-emitting products; influence customers by helping them identify their IT footprint and proposing lower carbon solutions; and engage with its workforce, 8,500 in Scotland, to reduce their personal footprints.

BT holds one of the world’s biggest green energy contracts for its electricity. It has just announced plans to generate up to 25 per cent of its current electricity needs by 2016 by developing wind farms on or adjacent to BT sites through an ambitious joint venture. Scottish sites are expected to play a key role. BT has applied for planning permission for test masts in Orkney and Shetland.

BT is carrying out a complete audit of the power consumption in its data centres, which account for about 50 per cent of BT power use. Significant progress has already been made in fresh air cooling, reduced electricity conversion, and server decommissioning and consolidation.

Workforce transformation is an essential element of BT strategy. Home and flexible working and web, audio and video conferencing are used extensively, helping to counter rush hour congestion and reduce business travel. Transformation of the workspace at main sites including our Edinburgh headquarters is under way to support the way we work now, making the most of the space available in a more sustainable way.

Individuals and small businesses can check out their carbon footprint at [www.bt.com/climatechange](http://www.bt.com/climatechange) while a carbon impact assessment service has been launched for larger organisations.

**The Impact:**

We now have 70,000 flexible workers and 15,000 home workers. The use of conferencing by staff has reduced BT's carbon footprint by at least 97,000 tonnes of CO2 and eliminated more than 860,000 face-to-face meetings.

BT people have made more than 8000 pledges to take personal action to reduce their carbon footprints to date and have set up more than 60 Carbon Clubs. Eighty per cent of employees say they have adopted green practices at home.

A million customers now receive paperless bills and half a million saplings have been purchased to date through an e-billing partnership with leading conservation charity The Woodland Trust. Trees are being planted at three sites in Scotland – Glen Finglas in Stirling; North Wood, West Lothian; and Geordie's Wood, Clackmannanshire.

We are working with partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors in Scotland, plus our customers and suppliers, to share our experience and help Scotland meet its climate change commitments.