

SUSTAINABILITY & BUSINESS TRAVEL

CALCULATING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF HOTEL STAYS

Business Travel can make up a significant proportion of a company's carbon footprint. As investors and other stakeholders demand action on carbon reduction, companies are seeking ways to understand, manage and reduce the carbon footprint of business travel. This includes transportation and hotel stays as listed in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol as a component of Scope 3 Value Chain Emissions. As organizations drive towards net zero, they are increasingly needing to quantify and address emissions generated through business travel hotel stays.

ARE YOU ...?

- ✓ Working within a company and looking to calculate the carbon footprint of your organization's hotel stays and meeting space for business travel for scope 3 calculations?
- ✓ Working within a company and looking to calculate the carbon footprint of your organization's hotel stays and meeting space for business travel in order to purchase offsets?
- ✓ Booking rooms on behalf of a client and looking to calculate the carbon footprint of the hotel stays and meetings based on the location and segment of each booking?
- ✓ Booking rooms on behalf of a client and looking to offer a carbon offsetting option based on the location and segment of each booking?
- ✓ Advising a client on their GHG emissions calculations or offsetting for Scope 3 business travel hotel stays?

If so, the hospitality industry has developed a number of initiatives to help you.

1. You should ensure the calculations are performed using the **Hotel Carbon Measurement Initiative** (HCMI) metrics
2. The **Cornell Hotel Sustainability Benchmarking Index** (CHSB) will provide you with all the data calculations and benchmarks you need in order to provide a robust carbon footprint estimation.
3. The **Greenview Hotel Footprinting Tool** will provide you with estimations of hotel carbon footprints in cities around the world.

HOTEL CARBON MEASUREMENT INITIATIVE (HCMI)

The **Hotel Carbon Measurement Initiative (HCMI)** is a commonly agreed methodology to measure carbon emissions per guest night or area of meeting space, developed by the hotel industry. Using HCMI to calculate carbon emissions ensures that data and calculations are consistent and comparable across properties and companies. The HCMI methodology and tool are freely available from the [Sustainable Hospitality Alliance](#).

CORNELL HOTEL SUSTAINABILITY BENCHMARKING INDEX (CHSB)

The Cornell Hotel Sustainability Benchmarking Index (CHSB) is an industry-led global data collection and benchmarking initiative, with data on energy, water, and carbon emissions from over 25,000 hotels around the world, available free of charge. The public data set is available from the [Cornell Center for Hospitality Research](#) and contains average hotel performance for different types of hotels in different geographies, including HCMI benchmarks. CHSB provides a solution for companies and those buying business travel on their behalf, as well as those offering GHG calculations and offsetting, to estimate in a robust way the carbon footprint of hotel stays and meeting space at scale.

GREENVIEW HOTEL FOOTPRINTING TOOL

For those wishing to estimate the carbon footprint of a hotel stay or meeting in a particular location, the [Greenview Hotel Footprinting Tool](#) is a simple-to-use tool that will make the calculation instantly, using HCMI data from CHSB. A data template is currently being developed so that companies can export data easily into their systems.

THE GREENHOUSE GAS PROTOCOL: CALCULATING A COMPANY'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

The standard for calculating a company's carbon footprint is set out by the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Emissions are separated into Scope 1 (direct emissions resulting from company operations), Scope 2 (purchased energy) and Scope 3 (upstream and downstream supply chain emissions). Reporting Scopes 1 and 2 is a requirement of the GHG protocol, whereas Scope 3 is optional. However, in order to achieve net zero, Scope 3 emissions need to be considered. Business Travel is listed in the GHG Protocol as a component of Scope 3.

BENCHMARKS VS ACTUAL DATA

While the GHG Protocol requests that actual data is gathered, in reality that is likely to be difficult when dealing with multiple properties, hotel companies and geographies. CHSB and the Greenview Hotel Footprinting Tool provide a simplified and streamlined solution based on a large, and growing, dataset and using methodologies which have been developed and agreed by the industry.

GETTING STARTED

First, evaluate your ability to gather data from the hotels you are booking. If this is not feasible then you can:

1. Use the Greenview Hotel Footprinting Tool to calculate your footprint by inputting the relevant hotel night and location information. You can do this city by city or via the multiple upload tool.
2. If required, use the tool to find default metrics for the carbon footprint of different hotel segments in different cities and countries around the world.
3. If you require further granularity or adjustments based on the types and locations of hotels in your data set, refer to the CHSB index tool which has more detailed segmentation and benchmark ranges.
4. If the size and geographic distribution of stays is large, contact Greenview for options to perform the multiple footprinting exercise for you.
5. If you require a data template to integrate the data into your own systems, please get in touch with Greenview.

AND FINALLY ...

The more hotels which participate in the CHSB index, the more robust and complete the data will be. Request that your hotel partners participate alongside companies such as our 2023 participants:

Accor, AINA Hospitality, Centara Hotels & Resorts, Chatham Lodging Trust, CPG Hospitality, DiamondRock Hospitality Company, Four Seasons, Hilton Worldwide, Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Horwath HTL Asia Pacific, Hyatt Hotels Corporation, InterContinental Hotels Group, KHP Capital Partners, KSL Capital Partners, Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, Marriott International, MGM Resorts International, Pacific Beachcomber, Park Hotel Group, Park Hotels & Resorts, Pebblebrook Hotel Trust, Playa Hotels & Resorts, Radisson Hotel Group, RLJ Lodging Trust, Rosewood Hotel Group, Ryman Hospitality Properties, Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas, Sunstone Hotel Investors, Inc, The Ascott Limited, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Xenia Hotels & Resorts

They can find out more by getting in touch with us at support@greenviewportal.com

ABOUT GREENVIEW

Greenview is the world's leading provider of sustainability programs and data management for the hospitality and tourism sector. Greenview supports dozens of companies to design, implement, and monitor their corporate responsibility and sustainability platforms to drive profitability, streamline data, keep ahead of trends, and provide effective communication for stakeholders. The Greenview Portal offers an off-the-shelf solution for hotels and hotel companies who wish to collect sustainability data, track performance and progress over time, report activities in a transparent way, and ultimately improve their sustainability performance. Headquartered in Singapore, with a global team of experts located in 7 countries, we manage the hospitality sector's largest collaborative sustainability initiatives, including the Cornell Hotel Sustainability Benchmarking Index and Green Lodging Trends Report, and have been instrumental in the development of existing industry-wide methodologies for measuring carbon (Hotel Carbon Measurement Initiative - HCMI), water (Hotel Water Measurement Initiative - HWMI) and waste, with the soon to be released WWF Hotel Waste Measurement Methodology.

For more information visit www.greenview.sg or contact us on support@greenviewportal.com