

CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEME – CRCEE – THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHY, HOW AND WHERE.

WHAT and WHERE – the CRCEE (aka Crickee!) is a UK government scheme aimed at reducing the country's carbon emissions by encouraging businesses that are large power users to operate more efficiently. There is a belief that it may be adopted elsewhere in Europe if successful.

WHO – Anyone who uses more than 6000 MWh (that is 6000 million Watthours of electricity) which is about £500,000 of electricity a year will have to register.

WHY – the UK government has committed to reducing its carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. They cannot do this by changing to nuclear and renewable energy alone as we cannot generate enough, we have to reduce our energy usage as a country in order to be able to fill our own requirements and not rely on imported electricity.

HOW – Each company in the scheme has to measure how much the CO₂ they emit during a year (calculated from gas and electricity spends) then buy enough credits at £12 per tonne of CO₂ to cover all of their emissions – about £25 000 for a company with the minimum spend. After 2 years carbon credits will become more limited and will be sold at auction at a price that will probably be higher. Each year a league table will be produced to show how much all 5000 participants have reduced their emissions. Where a Company sits within the table will determine how much of the £25 000+ is returned and whether they get a Brucie Bonus for good behaviour. How a company performs will also affect how attractive they are to investors and therefore how much money they can raise for investment and expansion.

WHEN – April 2010 is registration time.

April 2010 to March 2011 – 'footprint' emissions must be recorded. April 2011 and 2012 – carbon credits for the next 12 months are purchased.

July 2011 and 2012 - emissions report must be submitted . October 2011 and 2012 – league table published and bonus and penalty payments awarded

April 2013 – Now it gets complicated – Carbon Trading begins



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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Switch off any appliances not in use, install timers on equipment if appropriate
- Place heating and air conditioning on a timer – turn off if it is not needed
- Check the office before you go home - is everything switched off
- Look at the equipment / processes you are using – are they the best tool / process for the job?
- When buying new equipment look at the energy rating
- If you have any energy saving ideas let your unit manager or a member of the Carbon Reduction Committee know

FAQs

1. My computer can't make a difference to an energy bill the size of that of our Company.

For a company with 100 computers in use – if all of them were left on standby the cost would be £2 000 per year.

2. Why should I care?

Whether you are interested in helping the environment and concerned about future energy shortages or not, waste is waste. Apart from reducing the profitability of the Company, poor performance in the league table shows us to be inefficient and makes us less attractive to investors. This means the share price will drop – not good news if you participate in the SAYE scheme or already own Synergy shares.

3. What difference will turning a light off make?

Every office light tube left on at night and weekends wastes £11 per year, for warehouse lighting the cost increases to between £50 and £220.

