



6 ways to meet your emissions targets

Advice on limiting your farm's carbon footprint



It is estimated that agriculture accounts for 9% of the UK's total greenhouse emissions.

“There are some things in life that can't be controlled, but your emissions can be.

Monitoring the environmental impact of your farm may seem like a complicated task, but it is the first, vital step towards cutting emissions. Here we outline ways in which you can stay on the right side of environmental law whilst taking action to measure and reduce your carbon footprint.

The aim of this brochure is to highlight your options and to help you judge which actions are feasible for your farm.”

Mandy Stoker – Director at E4environment Ltd

Carry out an audit

Carrying out an audit is easy.

Carbon footprinting will help you make sense of fuel and electricity usage and there are many practical management benefits to be had from the process. Making small adjustments to livestock and crop management can make your operations more efficient and potentially increase yield. Your carbon footprint will provide you with a base line measurement from which you can monitor improvements according to any adjustments.

E4environment can carry out an on-site audit for you and can then provide you with a bespoke action plan to guide you towards better energy efficiency.

Develop an Environmental Management System (EMS)

Once you have conducted an audit, put your findings into action with an EMS.

This will manage compliance and seek ways to identify and improve environmental impacts such as:

- emissions to air, ground and water
- impact on ecology and biodiversity
- waste management
- use of raw materials

A more advanced EMS will include the potential impact of climate change on your farm such as flooding, the decline of pollinators and changing temperatures



Maximise biomass

Much of the biomass that currently exists on farmland consists of woodland, hedges and permanent pasture.

Planting woodland on site:

- reduces your overall carbon footprint
- encourages biodiversity
- offers opportunities for carbon trading

Not all places are suitable for tree planting, however there are ways to find an area that will benefit from the introduction of woodland but this may require an expert to make an assessment. Tree planting makes a great community project and grants are available.

Recycle farm waste

Agricultural activity can generate tonnes of waste which is expensive to manage in an environmentally friendly way. Reducing, reusing and recycling waste should be considered.

Test your manure and test your soil, then optimise the value of the manure by finding out which nutrients are needed to optimise the quality of your soil. E4environment Ltd can provide you with manure and nutrient plans to make this easier.

Re-using Construction Waste

Alternatively, farmers can be paid to take inert waste and rubble from construction sites for use on land or to repair tracks. This is regarded as a waste activity and therefore requires a permit. E4environment can help you identify the right permit and can simplify the application process.

Move to renewable energy

Renewable energy sources are increasingly important in the UK's efforts to reduce carbon emissions. They not only help reduce the farm's carbon footprint but also protect against fluctuating energy prices.

The Government offers various grants and initiatives for those investing in renewable energy. This includes Feed-In Tariffs (FITs) and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).

In order to assess the suitability of all technologies, a feasibility study should be conducted. Once the best form of renewable energy has been decided, planning permission may be required. With plenty of successful planning applications for AD, wind, biomass and solar installations under our belt, E4environment can assist you through this process.

Contact us

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Who we are

E4environment is an environmental consultancy providing professional, practical advice and expertise to both the private and public sectors on a wide range of environmental issues. Established in 2000, we have many years of experience providing specialist advice on a wide range of environmental topics.

Our service is professional, friendly and supportive, allowing the client to achieve their project aims; comply with legislation; save resources and money; and/or improve their environmental credentials.

We also offer products that support businesses to enhance and manage their green credentials and legal compliance obligations.