

Interest in the PAS 2060 Specification is growing rapidly as organisations look for ways to demonstrate their commitment to, and achievement of, carbon neutrality.

This factsheet has been prepared by Centre for Assessment to provide those who have an interest in carbon neutrality some basic facts about the Specification, its benefits, how the Specification works and the benefits of independent third party-certification.

WHAT IS PAS 2060?

The PAS 2060 Specification for the Demonstration of Carbon Neutrality was originally launched in 2010, and was updated in 2014, giving us the version of the Specification we currently have today. The primary aims of the PAS 2060:2014 Specification are:

to provide a clear definition of carbon neutrality;

to provide a credible means of determining and demonstrating carbon neutrality;

to encourage 'entities' (be they organisations/ companies or parts of organisations, governmental bodies, communities, clubs or social groups, families and even individuals) to work towards reduced greenhouse gas emissions and to achieve genuine reductions in those emissions.

the use of the Specification '*seeks to encourage real change in behaviour to help drive society towards a low carbon economy*'.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PAS 2060?

The Specification itself outlines a number of anticipated benefits from the use of PAS 2060:

- be more attractive to procurement teams
- increased action on climate change;
- accurate and verifiable declarations of carbon neutrality that are not misleading;
- reduction in confusion between trading partners;
- increased likelihood that organisations will make improvement in their carbon management relating to production processes and products, in response to customer pressure;
- increased opportunity for the public, consumers, purchasers and potential purchasers to make more informed choices.



At its simplest, the main benefit of utilising PAS 2060 is that it enables an entity to demonstrate to all its stakeholders (its employees, its customers, its suppliers and partners, etc.) that it is actively, and tangibly working to play its part in tackling climate change.

And that work is two-fold – internally, within the business, where a ‘carbon footprint management plan’ seeks out reductions in their own emissions through the implementation of new technologies, working practices, raw materials, etc. – and externally, through offsetting, where entities invest in credible offsetting mechanisms that support emission reduction projects around the world that also deliver the added social and environmental benefits*.

*Some examples of schemes that meet the requirements of PAS 2060 are Clean Development Mechanism (Certified Emission Reductions), Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard, WWF Gold Standard.

Remember, carbon emissions are often directly related to the use of energy and fuel and so reduced emissions often equate to reduced energy usage and costs.

HOW DOES THE PAS 2060 SPECIFICATION WORK?

The Specification defines eight steps through which carbon neutrality can be demonstrated:

1. determine the subject of the intended claim of carbon neutrality – the subject can be an organisation, a site or building, a product or service, even a single event like a wedding or a concert;
2. quantify the carbon footprint of that subject using a recognized methodology – the most widely used methodology for organisations is the WBCSD/WRI Greenhouse Gas Protocol;
3. develop a carbon footprint management plan;
4. make a declaration of commitment to carbon neutrality – the Specification provides details of exactly what needs to be included in such a declaration;
5. take action to reduce the carbon footprint of the determined subject and establish the effectiveness of those actions;
6. re-quantify the carbon footprint of the determined subject (usually after a year), ensuring that subject is unchanged, to determine the residual GHG emissions;
7. use a credible offset mechanism to balance out the residual GHG emissions;
8. in the event that carbon neutrality has been achieved for the determined subject, make a declaration of achievement of carbon neutrality – again, the Specification provides details of exactly what needs to be included in such a declaration.

INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION

PAS 2060 does provide the option for those making carbon neutrality declarations to either self-validate or have their declaration validated by a second party such as a consultant.

However, to provide stakeholders with maximum confidence in a declaration made in relation to a subject (and in the data and information that underpins such a declaration, such as the initial and final carbon footprint, the carbon management plan, etc.), independent third-party certification will always be the preferred option.

Centre for Assessment has developed robust internal processes (based on BS EN ISO/IEC 17029 and BS EN ISO 14065) for conducting assessments against the requirements of PAS 2060, and has trained assessors available who are well-versed not only in the requirements of PAS 2060 but in data and information verification, carbon reduction opportunities and techniques across a range of industries, offsetting mechanisms and wider business management practices.