An economy fit for the planet
We are an expert partner for businesses, governments and organisations around the world – supporting them in realising ambitious plans for a sustainable, low carbon future. We believe that environmental sustainability and economic prosperity can go hand-in-hand as we address the climate crisis.
Our mission is to accelerate the move to a sustainable, low carbon future - today, that means leaders setting net zero pathways and everyone taking steps to reduce their environmental impact.
Building a sustainable future
Until now, natural resources such as energy, materials, water and land have been abundant and cheap. As a result, today’s economy - from buildings and transport to food and clothing – is wasteful. The scarcity of resources, the impact of their use and the growth of emerging economies mean that the infrastructure, products and services of tomorrow will have to be radically different.

The Carbon Trust works with organisations to address these challenges and deliver on our mission – to accelerate the move to a sustainable, low carbon economy.

Our partners and clients are leaders in this transition – governments and multilateral organisations, businesses and the public sector. We act as a catalyst, working closely with them to help them succeed. Our experts listen closely to their needs, understand their challenges and create bespoke solutions, often acting as a critical friend. With almost two decades of experience, we understand what does and doesn’t work and – most importantly – why.

We cut through uncertainty to provide insights that support better, often bolder, decisions. We design and manage complex projects and collaborations that overcome financial and behavioural barriers to deliver real results. And, when the time comes to celebrate success, we recognise achievement through assurance and certification of the outcomes.
Why the Carbon Trust
We are impartial and – our clients and partners tell us – rigorous and innovative too. We understand the need for unique solutions, which is why we think global but act local. Every day we work with new technologies, markets and business models yet, in a sector where much is open to opinion, we make the case for change based on evidence and facts.

All this needs great people and real expertise. Fortunately we have both, with experts of over 30 different nationalities based across five continents. Our engineers, policy makers, financiers and entrepreneurs have experience from a wide range of sectors, and each is personally committed to delivering positive change to everyone we work with.

Lastly, as an organisation committed to our mission and without shareholders, we reinvest any surplus from our activities to further grow our impact.
Our team of experts work with businesses and organisations across the globe with offices in the UK, China, Singapore, Amsterdam, Mexico and South Africa.

200+ consultants, policy specialists, engineers and other experts worldwide
Expertise in action
Just as our partners and clients worldwide are incredibly diverse, the breadth and depth of our experience is almost unrivalled. Whether we’re measuring the carbon footprint of a bag of rice or helping deliver the smart, flexible energy systems of the future, we bring the best of our skills to deliver real impact.

We work globally with businesses, governments, public bodies, and international organisations of all sizes, delivering projects – both large and small – from concept to completion.

To demonstrate the breadth of our experience, the flexibility of our thinking and the impact we have, we have brought together a snapshot of some Carbon Trust projects over the following pages.
Carbon Trust has worked with more than 75 companies to set achievable and ambitious science-based targets.
Case studies
London Waste and Recycling Board
the UK's first circular economy-focused start-up accelerator

Offshore Wind Accelerator (OWA)
reducing the cost of offshore wind energy

Carlsberg
setting science-based targets on a path to net zero

Transforming Energy Access (TEA)
clean energy innovation

Quorn
product carbon footprinting and labelling

Barclays
green bonds with genuinely positive impact

Mahindra Sanyo
meeting ambitious carbon reduction targets
Offshore Wind Accelerator (OWA)
— reducing the cost of offshore wind energy

Clean energy technologies can only succeed if they become competitive. But creating a new industry means finding new ways to do things. Since 2008 we have run one of the world’s biggest collaborative innovation programmes, the Offshore Wind Accelerator (OWA), to unlock opportunities in a hugely promising but technically challenging source of renewable energy.

The OWA is collectively funded by developers representing three-quarters of Europe’s installed offshore wind capacity, alongside support from the UK and Scottish governments. Focusing on everything except the turbine, we target areas with the greatest potential for cost reduction.

The innovations pioneered through the programme have played a significant role in building a thriving offshore wind industry that is delivering new projects at prices exceeding government’s most optimistic expectations.

“Scottish Government support for the OWA has helped develop new ideas in key areas of importance to companies operating in Scottish waters.”

Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, Scottish Government
15% reduction in the cost of energy for an average offshore wind project

£34bn total savings to the industry against 2030 build targets
Billions of people around the world still lack access to modern energy technologies. Without this children struggle to do schoolwork after dark, unrefrigerated food spoils quickly, and health is damaged by indoor air pollution from fuel use. Addressing this challenge is critical for alleviating poverty and improving lives. However, unless this is done in a low carbon way it will exacerbate climate change, where impacts will disproportionately affect the very same people and counteract development efforts.

The Carbon Trust leads the delivery consortium behind the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office’s Transforming Energy Access (TEA) programme.

It aims to accelerate access to affordable, clean energy services for poor households and enterprises in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa through applied research and innovation. This programme is working to develop new technologies and create a robust evidence base on how to overcome the most significant barriers that hold back systemic change.
The TEA programme has supported 5 million people in developing countries to improve their access to clean energy.
London Waste and Recycling Board

— the UK’s first circular economy-focused start-up accelerator

The London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) is dedicated to ensuring that London’s businesses, local government and communities continually improve their waste and resource management, helping London waste less and re-use, repair and recycle more.

Circular solutions and business models are critical to decarbonising our economy, while also delivering wider social and environmental benefits.

We worked with the LWARB to create a new Circular London Accelerator, to support entrepreneurs by fostering, facilitating and scaling technological solutions to address London’s waste challenges.

The programme has enabled new approaches to industrial collaboration, strengthened relationships with corporate partners and is helping promising start-ups gain commercial traction.

“The Carbon Trust provided a unique set of skills in start-up incubation and a strong network of corporate relationships that were relevant for co-creating and delivering the Circular London Accelerator, as well as sharing our values and commitment to circular economy innovation.”

Wayne Hubbard, London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB)
£2.6m of venture capital and grant funding generated for the start-up cohort

14 pilots and trials secured
Carlsberg

— setting science-based targets on a path to net zero

Getting better is no longer good enough. Carlsberg Group is one of the world’s largest brewers, producing billions of beers each year and already performing well on sustainability. But the company’s leadership recognised that to deliver on a truly sustainable future, most industries will need to do more than just reduce their environmental impact. They need to rapidly move towards zero.

We worked with Carlsberg to help set science-based targets on greenhouse gas emissions, making them one of the first companies worldwide to commit to action in line with the Paris Agreement’s higher ambition goal of pursuing efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Our team of technical experts continues to work with the business, supporting them in delivering against this goal across their global operations in a way that makes good business sense.

“Global challenges such as climate change and water scarcity require strong collective action, and with Together Towards ZERO we’re setting new industry standards for science-based and partnership-driven sustainability.”

Cees ‘t Hart, CEO, Carlsberg Group
Carlsberg is aiming for zero carbon emissions from its breweries by 2030.
Quorn Foods is the world’s leading manufacturer of meat-alternative products.

To demonstrate the environmental credentials of its products, Quorn partnered with the Carbon Trust in 2012 to independently certify reductions in the carbon footprint of its products. This was communicated to customers through the Carbon Trust footprint label.

We also independently verified the footprinting models Quorn had developed for its products’ emissions in different parts of the world. This was used as the basis for the company’s claims that Quorn’s beef-alternative products can have a carbon footprint up to 13 times lower than beef.

Quorn Foods continues to work with the Carbon Trust to improve efficiency and sustainability in its operations and supply chain.

“\nThe footprint label helps us to transparently, and confidently communicate sustainability initiatives to our partners and customer.\n"  

Louise Needham, Sustainability Manager, Quorn
26% reduction in emissions per tonne between 2012 and 2017
Mahindra Sanyo

meeting ambitious carbon reduction targets

Mahindra Sanyo is one of India’s leading alloy steel manufacturers. In order to meet their commitment to the Paris Agreement, we worked with Mahindra Sanyo to support the development of ambitious science-based targets.

Using our deep technical understanding of how to reduce emissions from heavy industry, our experts helped the business set reduction targets for scope 1 and 2 operational emissions, as well as indirect scope 3 emissions.

The business became the first company from an emerging economy to set a science-based target on climate change and have this approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

In order to reach these targets, Mahinda Sanyo is sourcing more locally recycled scraps, and increasing investment in energy efficiency, renewable electricity and circular economy initiatives.

“...This work has allowed us to take on a leadership position within the industry, both locally and globally. We are proud to be in-step with other leading companies around the world by taking a robust approach to our environmental footprint reductions based on the best available science. For us this has always been the business case to future proof growth and profitability, responsibly."

Uday Gupta, Managing Director, Mahindra Sanyo
Mahinda Sanyo is targeting a 35% reduction in emissions per tonne of steel by 2030 (compared to 2016/17 levels).
Barclays

— green bonds with genuinely positive impact

Trillions of dollars will be needed to finance the transition to a sustainable economy. To support this, the market for green bonds has seen explosive growth. In 2017 bond issuances of $155 billion were labelled as green, compared to just $11 billion in 2013. But green is a relative term – not every green bond will really lead to green outcomes.

We worked with Barclays to develop a unique framework and methodology to make sure that the bank’s green bonds were based on robust principles using meaningful metrics. This resulted in the launch in 2017 of an innovative issuance backed by mortgages for energy efficient properties – the first of its kind in the UK market.

We then provided assurance on this bond against international standards to give investors the confidence that it will really deliver on the intended positive impacts.

“This issuance is an exciting step and complements Barclays’ existing involvement in the well-established green bond market. It will help us diversify our investor base, attracting interest from the growing group of environmental, social and governance investors.”

Tushar Morzaria, Group Finance Director, Barclays
€500m

Barclays’ €500 million green bond was the first issuance from a UK bank used to fund domestic assets.
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