

CARBON COUNTS™

Powered by Abt Associates



Designed by Abt Associates, **CarbonCounts™** is an innovative tool that consolidates and simplifies reporting, verification, and management of climate change and environmental initiative progress—including greenhouse gas mitigation, climate adaptation, collaboration efforts, energy consumption, waste generation, water use, and green procurement.

Overview

CarbonCounts™ is a shared platform specifically designed to support multiple organizations' collaboration and management of climate and other environmental initiatives. Examples of information it houses:

- Inventory of all projects underway and planned
- Text descriptions of each project
- Project owners, participating organizations, and organizational hierarchies
- Conversion formulae and constants for each project with quantitative metrics
- Planned progress, budget, and milestones
- Scheduled progress reports over project lifetimes
- Validation history and documentation for reported progress
- Aggregation reports (graphic and tabular) that contain:
- Conversion of project metrics to common units and comparisons to goal/plan
- Derived and aggregated metrics, such as, CO₂e avoided, gallons of water conserved, expenditures vs planned budget, % of milestones completed/late, kWh reduction per employee
- Summaries by types of project, responsible organizations, and common metrics

Using CarbonCounts™

Tracking Progress and Milestones

Projects can be set up to track any type of quantitative progress or inventory measure, including, for example, the number of hectares of forest sustainably managed, equipment retrofits, miles of dunes reinforced, energy consumption, or water use. Project documentation and all conversion formulae and constants needed to derive CO₂ equivalents for each input are stored in the system and used to calculate GHG emissions and reductions. For any project, milestones and schedules can be set up and tracked as well. The periodicity of data entry is easily adjustable by the administrator.

Transparency and Validation

Reported progress for each project, which can be augmented with notes and documentation, is routed to an authoritative reviewer. CarbonCounts™ allows assigned validators to review, approve, or reject data entered. Following acceptance, progress reporting is presented in summary and individual project output reports, accompanied by project-specific conversion methods and constants.

Adaptability and Customization

CarbonCounts™ can be readily customized for other languages, frequency of reporting, alternative CO₂ equivalent conversion formulae and constants, assigned user roles for data entry, reviewers, management, and administrators, as well as tabular and graphic outputs. In addition to ensuring that the delivered software solution improves reporting and meets any organization's needs, Abt provides research and support for organizational change needed to foster adoption, conversion calculations, and identification of mitigation and adaptation priorities. CarbonCounts™ can be provided as an externally hosted solution or put into production on the user's servers.



**BOLD
THINKERS
DRIVING
REAL-WORLD
IMPACT**

Why Organizations Addressing Climate Change Need CarbonCounts™

Consistency and verifiable GHG accounting and reporting among government- or organization-wide programs can bolster overall development strategies, investments, and efficient prioritization of climate change project portfolios.

- CarbonCounts™ strengthens the capacity of governments, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations to advance development goals while protecting citizens' health and environmental quality.
- CarbonCounts™ is a transparent reporting system with an embedded verification process with which users can demonstrate credible, timely progress and can determine if public resources are being used efficiently and cost-effectively to meet priority national programs.
- CarbonCounts™ enables countries and various organization levels to deliver on their mitigation commitments and actively and manage green investments.

Supporting Government Climate Change Priorities Worldwide

The Government of Mexico has been using the Abt-developed CarbonCounts™ tool since 2010 to track and report progress on its 294 federal-level climate change goals (Figure 1).

Abt Associates is also using CarbonCounts™ to support two initiatives of the Mexico City government:

- Its **Environmental Management System**, which tracks energy consumption, water use, waste generation, and purchasing for each of its 2,000 buildings; and
- Its **Climate Change Action Plan**, which tracks progress on over 50 mitigation projects as well as adaptation and educational projects.

In 2013, the State of Massachusetts began using CarbonCounts™ to track progress across 27 different policy and programs covering energy production, transportation, building, and non-energy sectors. The state's Climate Action Plan committed the state to a 25 percent reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2020. For the next seven years, CarbonCounts™ will determine how well the state is advancing toward this goal and identify next steps.

Environment, Resources, and Climate Change

Abt is one of the premier providers of analytic support to key environmental agencies. Since 1979, we have contributed to improvements in water quality, cleaner air, safer drinking water, less hazardous chemical products, safer pesticide usage, and less risky dams and levees. We are also analyzing the impacts of, and strategies to mitigate and adapt to, climate change.

In addressing the diverse issues related to climate change, Abt draws upon an equally diverse set of disciplines. Our national and international experts integrate environmental and energy policy, public health, ecosystem protection, economic growth, and agriculture, among other sectors.

Contact

For more information on CarbonCounts™ and our work in Environment, Resources, and Climate Change, please contact us at carboncounts@abtassoc.com.

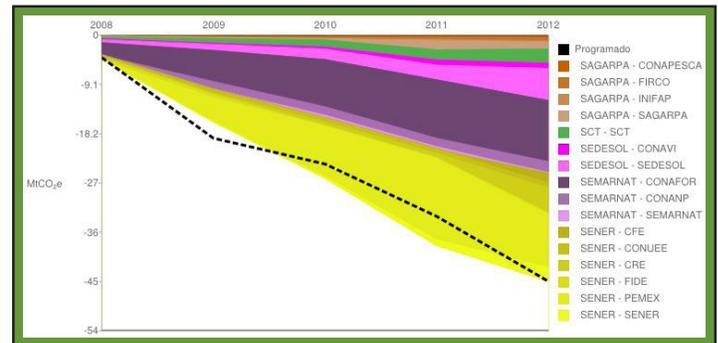


Figure 1: CO₂e Reduction by Organization

As deployed for Mexico's Special Commission on Climate Change

Abt Associates is a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development. Known for its rigorous approach to solving complex challenges, Abt Associates is regularly ranked as one of the top 20 global research firms and also one of the top 40 international development innovators. The company has multiple offices in the U.S. and program offices in more than 40 countries.