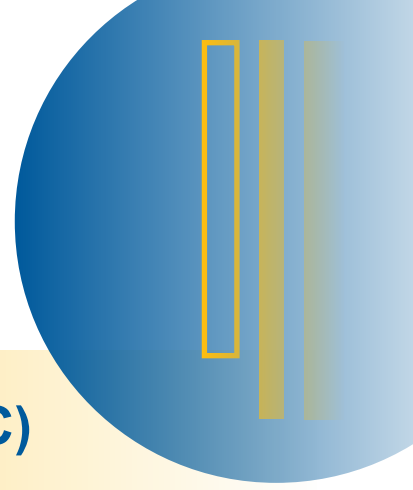




COMMUNICATIONS LTD

CONNECTIVITY WITH BUSINESS EFFICIENCY



The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Comply with legislation | Save money

What is the CRC?

The CRC is a mandatory, carbon-trading scheme developed by DEFRA (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). Not for the most energy-intensive users (like steel works or power stations) but for businesses in the next tier down. So if your organisation is a bank, hotel or retail chain, metropolitan or county council, university or manufacturing company, you may already have heard about it.

We at Astro Communications Ltd can help you understand your responsibilities and the full implications of how the CRC impacts upon your business. We'll guide you through the registration process, helping you to reduce your carbon emissions – as well as your costs.

The CRC is being introduced in 2010 (from April 2010 - March 2011, to fall in line with the financial year) and will cover electricity, gas and oil consumption. In the introductory phase, participation in the scheme will be based on your electricity consumption only for the year 2008.

With Astro Communications Ltd showing you how, take action now to ensure your company is compliant in time.

Who does the CRC affect?

If you have a half hour meter for your electricity, then you are affected by this scheme. There are three levels of compliance and reporting as follows:

If in 2008 you spent £500,000 or more on your annual electricity bill, then full disclosure and participation applies to you. In technical terms, this translates to using more than 6,000 MWh (megawatt-hours) per year, of half-hourly metered electricity. As a result, you will need to give full disclosure and will be a participant in the cap and trade scheme.

If you used between 3,000-6,000 MWh of energy then you have certain disclosure and reporting obligations.

Used under 3,000 MWh? Then you have a reduced set of reporting obligations.

All UK companies are liable, regardless of where their headquarters are, and both public and private sector companies are included.

Confused about where your company fits in? Contact Astro Communications Ltd for expert analysis of the situation.

Why is it important?

It's not just about ticks in boxes – the primary goal of the CRC is to drastically reduce the UK's carbon output. And while stimulating energy efficiency is a good thing in itself, those who act now will reap additional rewards - both financial and reputation-enhancing.

Save yourself money and boost your eco-credentials? What we at Astro Communications Ltd call a win-win situation ...

What is the CRC League Table?

Each year after your company - and an estimated 5,000 others - has reported its annual carbon emissions, you will be ranked in the CRC league table. Several indicators will be used and could result in your company being named - or shamed. For example, how well did you reduce your company's carbon output? Did you achieve either of the designated 'early action' metrics? (See below.)

Depending on your ranking, your company could win bonuses - or incur penalties. And from April 2010 companies who do not reduce their carbon output must purchase carbon allowances to cover their emissions. While the specifics are being worked on, one thing is clear; the higher your rating, the less you will pay.

Astro Communications Ltd can put your business at the top of the league table – and translate your performance into cash for your company.

Penalties for non-compliance

Ignoring the CRC won't make it go away. Fail to comply and your company faces strict penalties. Late reporting and under/over reporting of emissions will also result in a penalty or fine.

How can I improve my position in the CRC league table?

Early Action 1: Improve your energy monitoring capability

The first step to reducing your energy and carbon output is to measure it. DEFRA understands this and will reward organisations installing AMR (Automated Meter Reading) systems with an improved league table ranking.

Astro Communications Ltd can assess your needs and install the 'smart' metering that's right for you – and move you up the table in an instant.

Early Action 2: Obtain Carbon Trust certification

The Carbon Trust Standard certifies that an organisation has genuinely measured its carbon footprint and is committed to making further reductions year on year. The second of two designated 'early action' metrics under the CRC, holding a valid Carbon Trust Standard certificate gives a guaranteed boost to your league table positioning.

Don't know how to calculate or submit your company's carbon footprint? Astro Communications Ltd can do this for you - then implement an ongoing energy management and reduction programme.

So what should you do next?

- 1** Do you have half hour electricity meters? Then the CRC affects you. What level of compliance and reporting is necessary? Work out your annual electricity bill for 2008. Too many variables make it too much like hard work? Then let Astro Communications Ltd do it for you.
- 2** Install Automated Meter Reading - your first leg-up to pole position in the CRC league table. Seek advice from Astro Communications Ltd for the product that's best for you.
- 3** Achieve Carbon Trust Standard certification. Ask Astro Communications Ltd to calculate your carbon footprint. With this you can estimate the cost of your allowances in the first CRC year – and boost your CRC ranking.

SO WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

Call Astro Communications Ltd on 01322 610100 or [contact us](#) to discuss the CRC and arrange a FREE Energy Audit for your business.