

# Carbon Strategy



## The U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

|                         |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Industry                | Government entity                                                                     |
| Size                    | 260 posts in 145 countries                                                            |
| Location                | UK                                                                                    |
| BSI Service or Solution | Analysis of existing capabilities and gaps, and development of policy recommendations |

### Key Challenges

- The FCO has a commitment to operate on a sustainable basis, driven by 3 key imperatives:
  - A need to demonstrate visible international leadership to support the UK's high-level policy priority of promoting a 'low carbon, high growth' global economy around the world;
  - To fulfil a pledge by the Foreign Secretary to be carbon neutral; and
  - Execute a programme of "greening the FCO" to promote sustainability and reduce costs.
- However, a review had demonstrated that the FCO was performing poorly against its UK domestic targets for sustainable operations, and the FCO knew that the level in overseas posts varied greatly.

### Why BSI was Selected

- The FCO approached the Carbon Trust for support in improving performance across its' global estate.
- Our team member was assisting the Carbon Trust on the engagement.

### Project Scope

- Help the FCO articulate what its sustainable operations objectives, policies and scope of operations should be.
- Assess initiatives related to carbon, environment and sustainability in the UK and at selected overseas posts
- Develop 3 high-level strategic options for taking sustainable operations forward.
- Define for each option: targets, timing, costs, benefits and high-level implementation, monitoring and review requirements.

### Project Approach

- Conducted interviews in the FCO and other government departments to gain insight and build consensus on the environmental strategy.
- Undertook a detailed bottom up analysis of the carbon savings and other sustainability targets which could be achieved across the FCO estate. This review considered the opportunities from 10 main types of initiatives (e.g., lighting, heating, travel, procurement, IT, water, etc) across 446 buildings (in various climates, of different ages, architecture, building fabric and insulation, and heating/cooling systems, etc).
- Working with a technical subcontractor, we helped the FCO develop an approach, roadmap and key templates for a global carbon footprint methodology – which was robust and meaningful yet could be expediently implemented across the large and diverse overseas estate.

### Benefits Realized

- The FCO agreed on a strategic option for making its operations more sustainable, which gained the support of the Finance Director.
- The FCO also began rolling out the global carbon footprint tool.