



Organisational Carbon Footprints: From Measurement to Meaningful Action

26th February 2026

circularecology.com

Today's Webinar

- Introduction
- What is an Organisational Carbon Footprint?
- Key reporting decisions
- Understanding different data types
- Improving your data over time
- Turning data into meaningful action
- Q&A

Your Presenters Today



Joe Rouse

Senior Consultant

- *5 years' experience in organisational and product carbon footprints*
- *Background in carbon removal and storage*



Jon Burrow

Head of Carbon Accounting

- *Over a decade working in carbon reporting and carbon reduction strategies*
- *Background in UK / EU carbon regulatory compliance*

Circular Ecology – Introduction



Environmental consultancy, founded in 2013

Offer a range environmental services:

- **Organisational Carbon Footprints, Scope 1, 2 & 3**
- Product Carbon Footprints
- Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)
- Life Cycle Assessments (LCA)
- Whole-Life Embodied Carbon Assessments for Construction Projects
- Carbon Footprint Verification & Assurance
- Net Zero Carbon Strategy
- Carbon Footprint Database (library) Development
- Online E-Learning Training Courses
- Carbon Offsetting and Tree Planting



Hosts the Inventory of Carbon & Energy (ICE) database

Celebrating 850,000 Trees Planted

Facilitated the planting of **over 850,000 trees**

In partnerships with **Eden: People+Planet** and **Ripple Africa**

Tree planting available on our online store - **£1 (ex. VAT) per tree**

25% of tree planting sales diverted to Circular Ecology's **SCRI fund**





Introduction to Organisational Carbon Footprints

What you need to know...

What is an Organisational Carbon Footprint?

An organisational carbon footprint:

Measures the total greenhouse gas emissions associated with an organisation's operations, including energy use, transportation, supply chain, and other activities

Typically expressed in **CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e)**.

Benefits of an Org. Carbon Footprint



Understand where your emissions come from so you can prioritise where to take action and **reduce your impact**



Differentiate your organisation from others with **clear, communicable reduction efforts**



Help to **reduce energy consumption** and **costs**



Support **target setting** and **reduction planning**



Ensure regulatory compliance and win new projects (SECR, UK Gov PPN 006, ESOS, CBAM, SBTi, CDP)

An organisational carbon footprint is a support tool that turns data into focus...

Limits of an Org. Carbon Footprint



Does not provide **product level** environmental data, equivalent to an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) or Lifecycle Assessment (LCA)



Not suitable for ranking or comparing against other organisations without the correct **context and applicability**



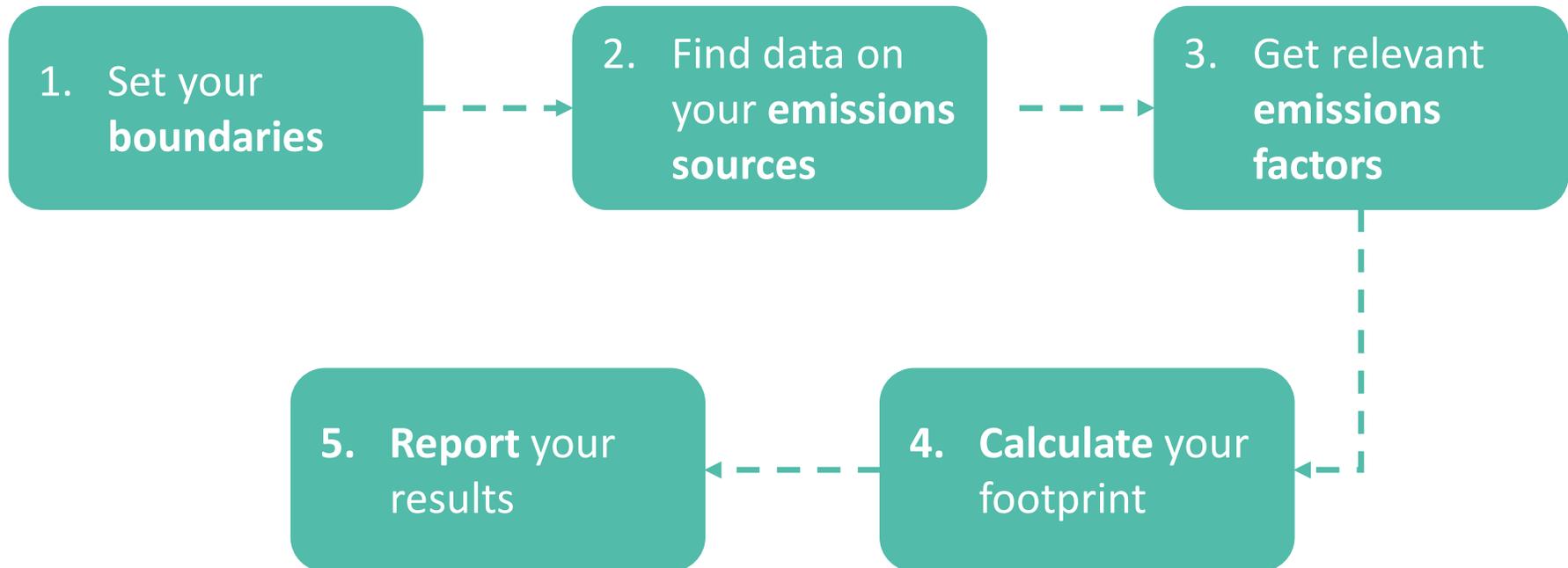
Relies on the quality and suitability of the chosen **boundaries, data,** and **assumptions** that drive the calculations – **verification is key**

**An organisational carbon footprint can provide clarity at a strategic level.
Effective to use alongside other more targeted, detailed assessments.**

Where to start with reporting?

Starting a carbon footprint can feel daunting...

Breaking the process down into stages can reduce the complexity:



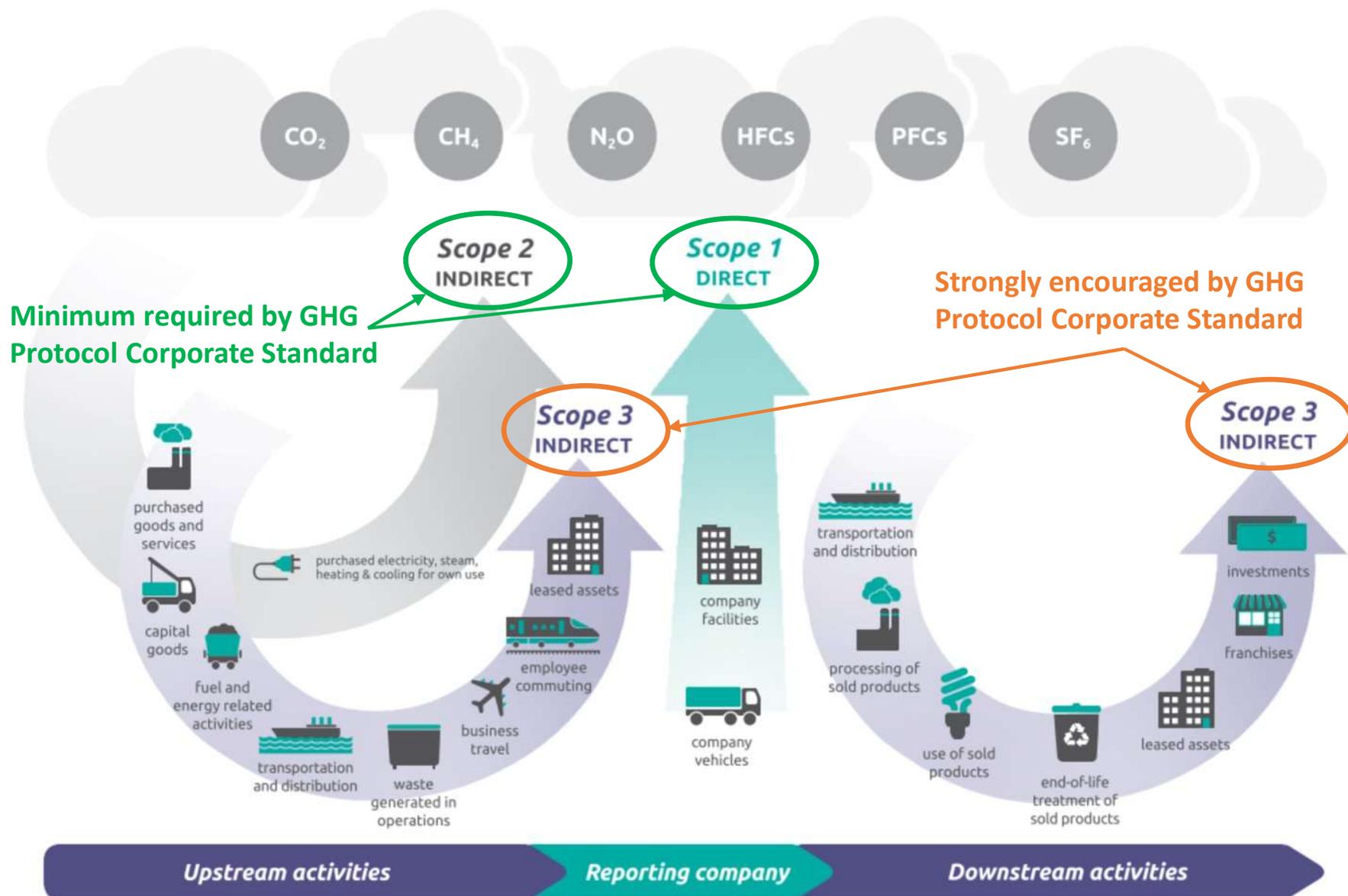
Underlying Reporting Standards

- GHG Protocol Corporate Standard (Revised Edition, 2015 amendment)
- GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance (2015)
- GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard (2011)
- **NEW** GHG Protocol Land Sector and Removals Standard (2026)



Source: GHG Protocol (<https://ghgprotocol.org/>)

Scope & Boundaries – What to Include?





Key Reporting Decisions

Organisational boundaries, control approaches, and materiality of Scope 3 categories.

Scope & Reporting – Key Decisions

Organisational Footprints are shaped by reporting and scoping decisions that determine what emissions are included, how they are calculated, and how the results should be reported.



Organisational Scope & Boundaries: Defining the extent of your reporting boundaries (what you will cover) and control approach (defines what is your responsibility) i.e., operational control, financial control, or equity share approach.



Scope Categories: Decide to include Scope 3, or not... if so, which Scope 3 categories are relevant / significant. This can be expanded upon over time as your footprint matures.



Where & How to Report: Decide the reporting metrics that are most useful for your organisation. What is your target audience? Do you have mandatory / optional reporting requirements?

Footprint Reporting Decisions

What to Report

Consider the **target audience** for your reporting? Is it directed at stakeholders, regulators, internal only etc...?

Include both **absolute** (tCO₂e) and **intensity** (tCO₂e / metric) results for wider context and comparability.

Present results by **scope, sites, geographies, business sections** or any other way as relevant to your organisation.

Where to Report

Consider the **reporting standards, any compliance requirements, and target audience** for your results.

Display your results clearly on **your website** and within your **annual company reporting**.

Sign up to **voluntary carbon** disclosure initiatives such as **SBTi** and **CDP** for more visibility and recognition.

Longer-term Strategic Decisions

An organisational footprint can act as the foundation of your wider carbon strategy. Do you want to consider:

1) Annual **reporting & independent verification**



2) Setting **carbon targets** and **reduction goals**



3) Planning out your **carbon reduction measures**



4) Expanding **scope** and **quality** of footprint...



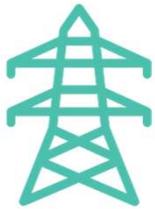


Understanding Types of Data

Spend-based, process-based, and hybrid methods.

Typical Data Requirements

Access to the right data is key to an accurate Carbon Footprint!



Emission sources data, e.g.,

- Supplier invoices, meter readings fuel deliveries
- Fleet fuel records, vehicle mileage logs
- Wider logistics data (supply chain, business travel)
- Waste data, other operational data
- Procurement records and other spend data...



Intensity metric data, e.g.,

- Turnover figures
- No' employees (FTEs) figures
- Production volumes
- Floor area (where relevant)

Documenting the process: Reporting period, scope & boundaries, data collection and validation procedures, estimations, and exclusions...

Different Approaches to Data

Spend-based Data

Financial spend on procured goods, services, and activities.

Usually the most readily available data to collate.

Lower quality data.

Process-based Data

Actual quantities of tangible goods, services, and activities.

Usually more difficult to collect this data.

Higher quality data.

Hybrid Approach

A mixture of Spend-based and Process-based data.

Allows flexibility in approach.

Can track and improve the quality of data over time.

Emissions Factors & Data Sources

There are many databases, calculators, and platforms available to help:



UK DEFRA/DESNZ Emissions Factors

- Free UK database of emissions factors
- Contains factors for fuels, electricity, vehicles and more



Open CEDA Database

- An open-source database of spend-based factors
- Geographically specific and based on operational activities



Circular Ecology Carbon Footprint Tool

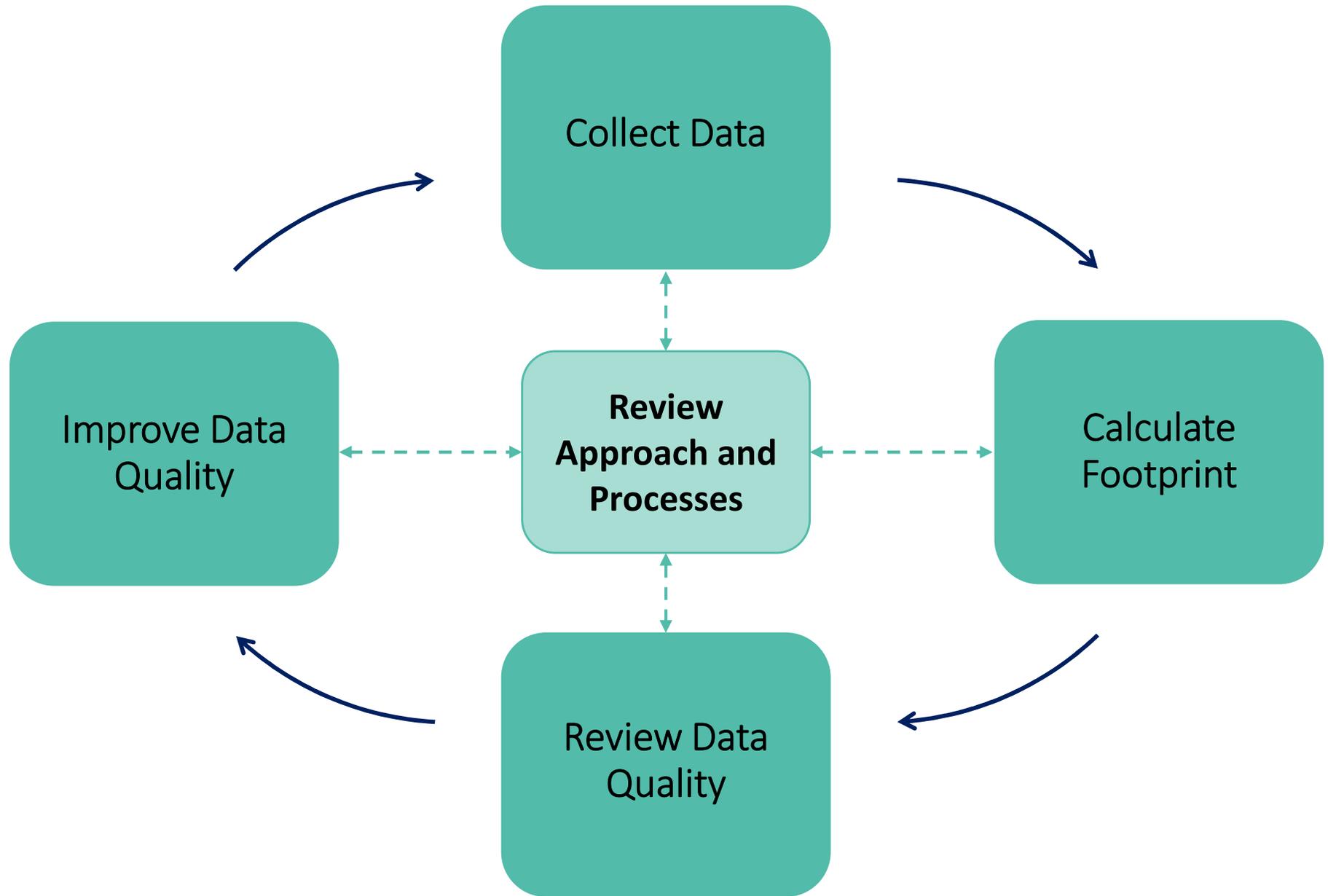
- Our **Free** excel-based tool for calculating Scope 1 & 2 Carbon Footprints
- Automatic production of carbon footprint reports



Improving Data Over Time

Common Approaches and Challenges

Annual Footprint Reporting Cycle



Data Maturity Ladder

1

Spend-Based Factors

2

Generic Process-Based Emissions Factors

3

Targeted (Proxy) Generic Process-Based Emissions Factors

4

Assumed Supplier-Specific Emissions Data

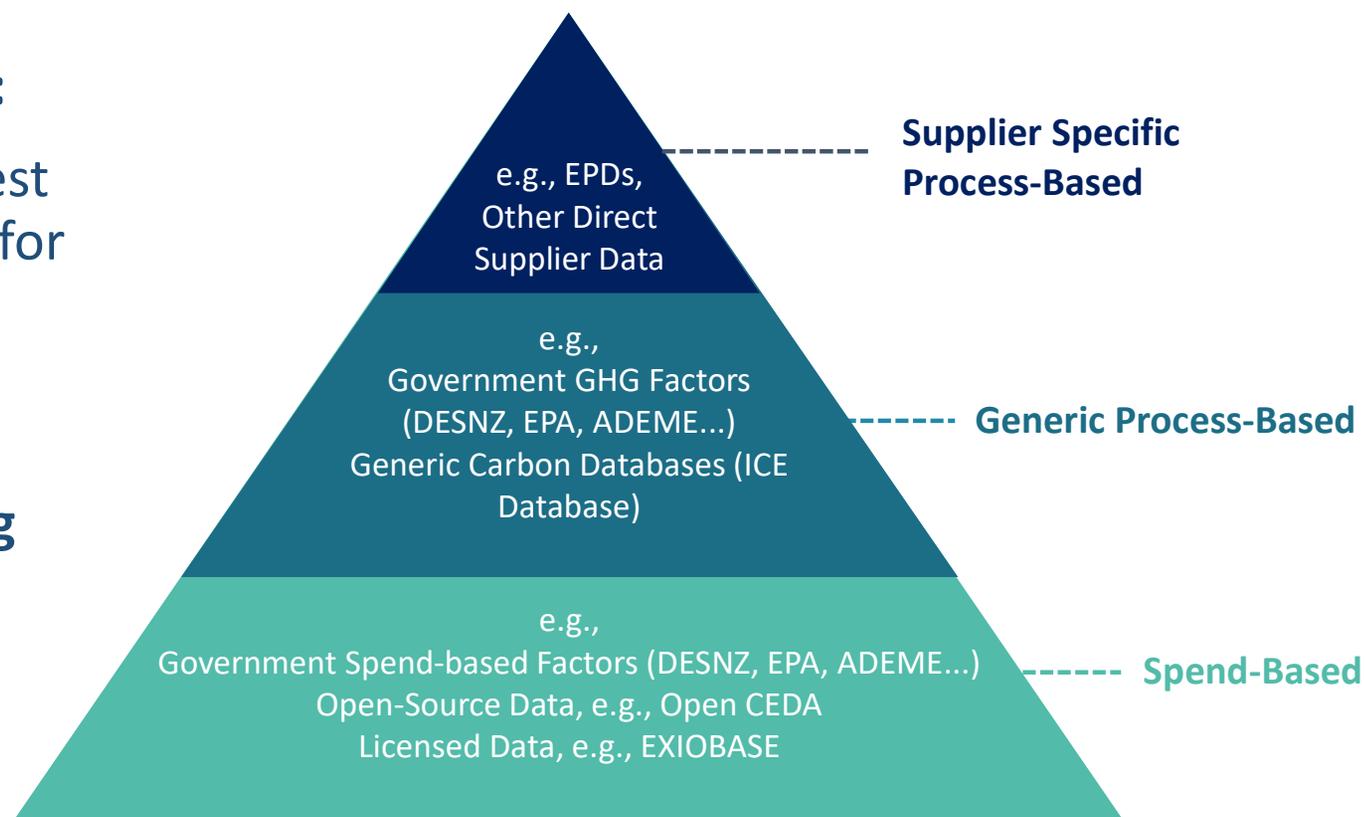
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Verified Supplier-Specific Emissions Data

Data Improvement – Useful Resources

Data Quality Hierarchy:

- Always aim for the best possible data quality for significant emissions
- Higher accuracy data allows for better **planning** and **tracking** of carbon reductions



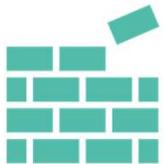
Hierarchy of Data Quality

Using DQIs to Track Improvements

Using a small number of Data Quality Indicators (DQIs) can track footprint data quality over time and help focus on improvements.



Footprint DQIs: Emissions % by data type (supplier-specific / generic process-based / spend-based). Target decrease in spend-based share over time.



Category DQIs: Significant emissions % moved away from spend-based, or number of categories with improved DQI scores over time.



Factor DQIs: You can score data quality of individual factors used for geographical, temporal, and technological relevance and aggregate the DQI scores as needed.

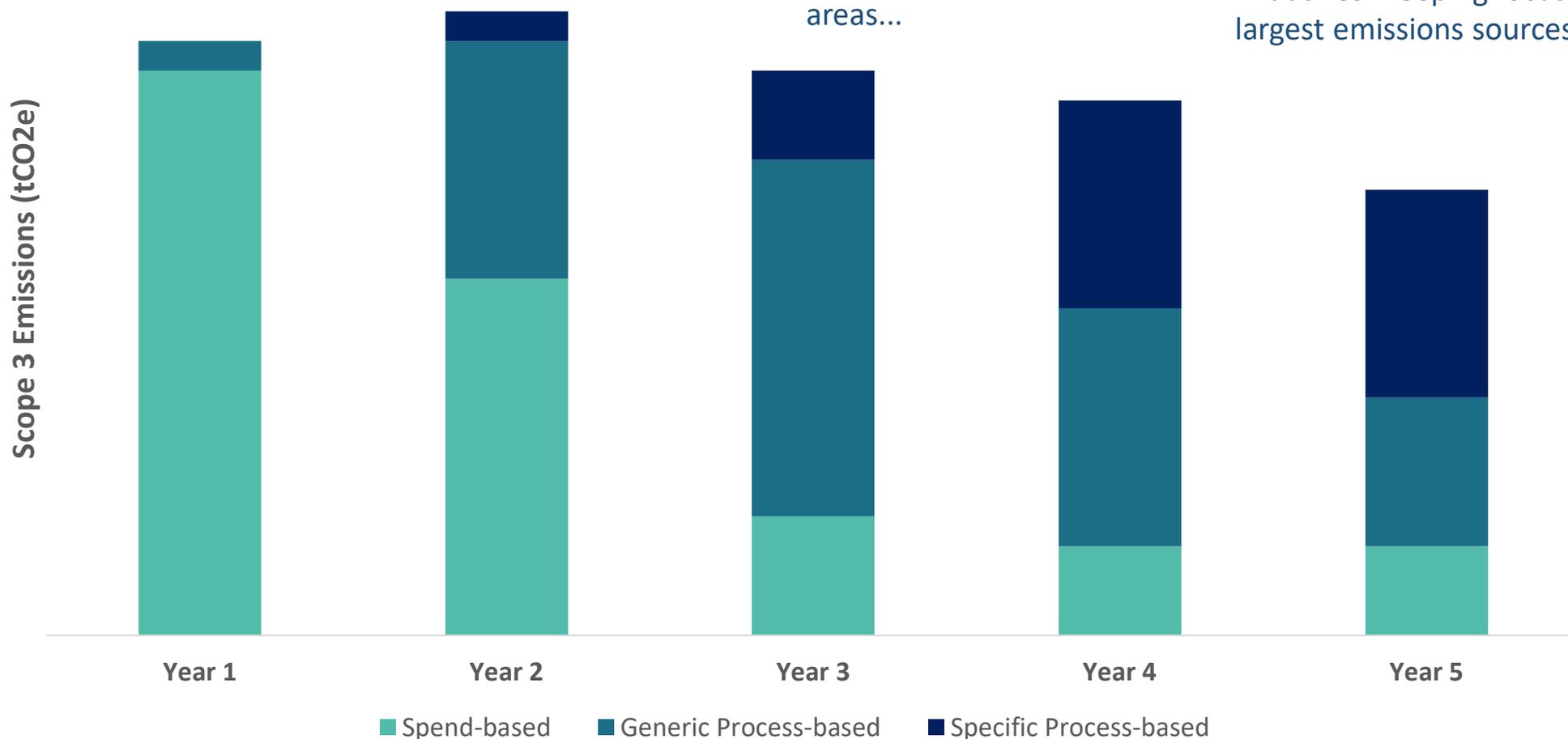
Illustrating Data Maturity Over Time

1. Mainly Spend-based. Initial hotspot review. Perhaps some process-based data already available.

2. Move to process-based data where information is already available. More likely to be "generic" in the first instance.

3. Try to improve data quality each year. Move from **spend to process**, and from **generic to specific**. Likely to still require some spend-based for trickiest areas...

4. With more process-based reporting, comes better tracking of carbon reduction initiatives. Keeping focus on largest emissions sources.





Turning Data into Action

Finding carbon hotspots, setting targets and reduction strategies.

Turning Insights into Action

Use your footprint to help inform:



Carbon Hotspots - identify **activities, categories, or suppliers** driving your most significant emissions.



Carbon Action Plan - list and **develop reduction initiatives** in areas where change is realistic and within organisational control or influence.



Decision Leverage - prioritise actions where your organisation could **achieve the greatest impacts** relative to effort and cost

Identifying Actions

Use hotspots to define targeted actions and best focus your resources:



Operational Actions – Energy efficiency, fuel switching, process changes.



Behavioural Actions - Sustainable working practices and policies e.g., on business travel, logistics, homeworking etc...



Procurement Actions - Supplier engagement, low carbon alternatives, sustainable procurement process requirements.



Data Actions - Improving quality of priority data areas to enable better decisions year on year, and reduce uncertainty.

Embedding Action Over Time

Embed carbon data into every decision and review performance over time:

- ❑ **Establishing a consistent baseline**

Use organisational footprints as a reference point for tracking progress over time and understanding the impact of any actions taken.

- ❑ **Linking results to targets and planning**

Translating footprint results into realistic reduction targets and structured carbon action plans, rather than standalone reporting.

- ❑ **Reviewing and refining annually**

Improving scope coverage, data quality, and reporting methods each year to reflect organisational changes and provide more confidence in results.

Today's Webinar - Recap

- ✓ Overview of an Organisational Carbon Footprint.
- ✓ Knowledge on key scoping and reporting decisions.
- ✓ Understanding the data you need to complete your footprint.
- ✓ How to improve your data over time.
- ✓ How to translate carbon insights into meaningful action.

Next Webinars

Next Webinars -

How to Produce an EPD: An Overview – 12th March 2026

An Introduction to Bespoke Carbon Datasets – 26th March 2026

Recap of previous webinars - Watch these again at on our website...

- **An Introduction to the Circular Ecology EPD Programme**
- **Carbon Offsetting, Neutrality & Tree Planting: An Overview**
- **Product Carbon Footprints, LCAs, and EPDs: What You Need to Know**

Keep an eye on our networks for more information

Website - circularecology.com

LinkedIn - [linkedin.com/company/circular-ecology](https://www.linkedin.com/company/circular-ecology)





Thank you for attending

<https://circularecology.com/organisational-carbon-footprint.html>
<https://circularecology.com/organisational-carbon-footprint-tool.html>