

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

Toitū carbon programme certification

TO THE INTENDED USERS

Responsible Party: United Utilities Group PLC

Toitū Carbon Programme: Carbon Reduce

Audit Criteria: ISO 14064 Part 1 2018, ISO 14064 Part 3 2019.

Technical Requirements 3.1 & Audit and Certification Technical requirements 3.0.

UKWIR - CAW

GHG Protocol scope 2 guidance.

Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting Reporting Standard.

Registered address: Lingley Green Avenue, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 3LP, United Kingdom

Inventory period: 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

GHG Assertion: IMR_2324_United Utilities Group PLC_CR_Org.pdf

We have reviewed the responsible party's greenhouse gas assertion.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Management of the Responsible Party is responsible for the preparation of the GHG statement in accordance with ISO 14064-1 2018 and the requirements of the stated Toitū carbon programme. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to the preparation of a GHG statement that is free from material misstatement.

VERIFIERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Our responsibility as verifiers is to express a verification opinion to the agreed level of assurance on the GHG statement, based on the evidence we have obtained and in accordance with the audit criteria. We conducted our verification engagement as agreed in the Contract and Engagement letter, which together define the scope, objectives, criteria and level of assurance of the verification. The International Standard ISO 14064-3 2019 requires that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the validation and verification to obtain the agreed level of assurance that the GHG emissions, removals and storage in the GHG statement are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the ISO 14064-3:2019 Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The procedures performed on a limited level of assurance vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent compared to reasonable assurance, which is a high level of assurance. . Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers, taken on the basis of the information we audited.

GHG quantification is subject to inherent uncertainty because of incomplete scientific knowledge used to determine emissions factors and the values needed to combine emissions of different gases.

BASIS OF VERIFICATION OPINION

Our responsibility is to express an assurance opinion on the GHG statement based on the evidence we have obtained. We conducted our assurance engagement as agreed in the contract which defines the scope, objectives, criteria and level of assurance of the verification.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

VERIFICATION

We have undertaken a verification engagement relating to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report (the 'Inventory Report')/Emissions Inventory and Management Report of the organisation listed at the top of this statement and described in the emissions inventory report for the period stated above.

The Inventory Report provides information about the greenhouse gas emissions of the organisation for the defined measurement period and is based on historical information. This information is stated in accordance with the requirements of International Standard ISO 14064-1 2018 and the requirements of the stated Enviro-Mark Solutions Limited (trading as Toitū Envirocare) programme.

VALIDATION STRATEGY

As per ISO14064 part 3 2019, the stated level of assurance can only apply to verification work. Validation refers to a future prediction. In such cases the conclusion is given as a mixed engagement and our work performed is based upon a review of the assumptions made to provide the given forecast.

VERIFICATION STRATEGY

Verification evidence gathering procedures include:

An initial evaluation of organisational scope & boundaries, typically by interview and or desktop data review.

A sample of site visits will typically be conducted, dependent on the industrial sector.

A comprehensive range of emission sources will be taken and typically checked for classification, completeness of data, scope & boundaries, time-periods, emission factors applied, consistency or changes to methodologies, estimations used & that adequate control procedures are in place. This will also include retrace back to source data and a full recalculation of GHG emissions.

VERIFICATION LEVEL OF ASSURANCE

Limited

Total gross tCO ₂ e subject to verification level of assurance:	Total gross tCO ₂ e subject to validation, excluded from level of assurance:
689,870.19	0.00



QUALIFICATIONS TO THE OPINION

The following qualifications have been raised in relation to the verification opinion:

Emissions from Purchased Goods & Services/Capital Goods are calculated using a spend based EEOI methodology. These are subject to a high level of uncertainty and are unsuitable for reporting longer term. A more accurate methodology should be considered.

CONCLUSION

EMISSIONS - VERIFICATION LIMITED ASSURANCE



Based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the emissions, removals and storage defined in the inventory report:

- do not comply with ISO 14064 Part 1 2018 and the requirements of the stated Toitū Envirocare Toitū carbon programme; and
- do not provide a true and fair view of the emissions inventory of the Responsible Party for the stated inventory period.

OTHER INFORMATION

The responsible party is responsible for the provision of Other Information to meet Programme requirements. The Other Information may include emissions management and reduction plan and purchase of carbon credits, but does not include the information we verified, and our auditor's opinion thereon.

Our opinion on the information we verified does not cover the Other Information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read and review the Other Information and consider it in terms of the programme requirements. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the information we verified or our knowledge obtained during the verification.

Verified by:	Authorised by:
Name: Damian Burton	Name: Glenn Cargill
Position: Lead Verifier	Position: Technical Reviewer
Signature: 	Signature: 
Date verification audit: 13 May 2024	Date authorised: 14 May 2024

