



CASE STUDY

CARBON

With over 12,000 product lines, the UK's largest distributor of decorative surfaces offers wall panelling, flooring, worktops, laminates, compact, panel products and solid surfaces sourced globally, the challenge of carbon emissions reporting was considerable.

IDS puts sustainability and ethics at the forefront of its decisions and actions, upholding their responsibility as a supplier, manufacturer and distributor.

The company was acquired by Saint-Gobain in 2000 and achieved £100million turnover in 2005. It then expanded to seventeen sites across the UK, and became one of Europe's largest distributors of decorative surface materials.

With a substantial transportation and distribution operation, combined with the logistics of importing wood, ceramics, stone, and plastics from across the globe, there were complexities at every turn.

A key consideration was how its carbon emissions were to be quantified across Scope 1, 2, and the 15

categories of Scope 3. For example, the many sites were variously, owned, rented, and leased, and so too were vehicles. Capital goods, waste, and leased assets were clearly significant emissions factors in addition to the obvious topics such as fuel and electricity.

The business was behind on meeting its regulatory demands, and ESG Pro was selected as the corporation's sustainability advisory.



Objectives

- Ensure annual compliance with the UK SECR (Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting) regulation.
- Compliance with the UK's ESOS (Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme) regulation, a mandatory energy assessment.
- To satisfy the construction industry's demands for comprehensive carbon emissions reporting to SBTi standards.



Target

Comprehensive carbon emissions reporting for SECR, ESOS, and SBTi



Time frame

To complete all required evidence gathering, auditing, and report publishing within 12 months

Alastair Peat

Head of Supply Chain

Alastair explains the challenges of the carbon reporting across such a complex operation, and why they wanted to go beyond mere regulatory compliance.

"At IDS, sustainability is embedded in our operations, and we recognise the importance of accurate carbon emissions reporting for SECR, ESOS, and SBTi compliance. However, with a vast product portfolio, 17 sites, and a complex supply chain spanning owned, rented, and leased assets, the challenge of quantifying our emissions across all Scopes was immense. Traditional spreadsheet-based methods were proving cumbersome, time-consuming, and prone to errors.

That's where ESG Pro made a transformational impact. Their cutting-edge IQ GHG platform completely streamlined our emissions reporting process, eliminating the need for manual spreadsheets and enabling real-time data aggregation. The ESG Pro technology significantly reduced the administrative burden on our team, ensuring we could accurately quantify our Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions—covering everything from fuel and electricity to capital goods, waste, and leased assets—with complete confidence.

ESG Pro's expertise was invaluable in navigating the complexities of our reporting obligations. They not only ensured full regulatory compliance but also provided actionable insights to enhance our sustainability strategy. The IQ GHG platform offered seamless integration, and their consultancy team delivered nearly instant emissions calculations. The process culminated in a superbly professional emissions report which has already benefited our business from a marketing standpoint. Such comprehensive reporting allowed us to meet our deadlines while focusing on emission reduction initiatives rather than data processing.

Thanks to ESG Pro, we've moved from being behind on our regulatory requirements to leading the way in transparent, accurate, and efficient carbon reporting. Their technology-driven approach has saved us countless hours, increased our reporting accuracy, and given us the clarity needed to drive our sustainability ambitions forward. We couldn't recommend ESG Pro highly enough to any organisation looking for a smarter, faster, and more effective approach to carbon emissions reporting."

ESG Pro initiatives for this project

- ☑ By completing all three objectives (SECR, SBTi, and ESOS) into a single coherent project, IDS saved many hours of effort and was able to engage with a single supplier.
- ☑ Our carbon reduction measures included negotiating a Power Purchase Agreement on behalf of the client so they secured a 50MW solar array without any capital expenditure.
- ☑ As part of the client's Net Zero goal, we created a fleet-wide plan for electrification.
- ☑ The ESG Pro consultancy team conducted classroom-based training for the client's "Carbon Champions", culminating in examination and certification. This 3-day course was widely praised.
- ☑ We incorporated procurement optimisation which enabled IDS to recover the cost of consultancy and to benefit the firm's cash-flow for several years to come.
- ☑ As part of the wider ESG and sustainability effort, ESG Pro were able to integrate its supply chain auditing process to reduce the client's carbon footprint organically, which simultaneously mitigating risk of illegal timber products entering their supply chain.