

The Green500 Process

So you have decided to sign up to Green500. Firstly, congratulations on choosing to help lead the way on reducing London's carbon footprint. But what happens next?

Initial Sign-up Logistics

Once you have agreed to sign up, you will be contacted by your Carbon Mentor who will provide you with a username and password for the members area of the Green500 website and introduce you to the online data capture system. The first thing you will need to do is log on and follow the prompts to accept the Terms and Conditions. Your Carbon Mentor can also arrange website access for any other members of your organisation that so require it.

Set up a carbon baseline for London

Your Carbon Mentor will have a discussion with the key liaison within your organisation to discuss the data requirements. S/he will help you to compile your organisation's carbon baseline for London. Your Carbon Mentor is there to help make the data gathering process as quick and painless as possible. Having baseline data will enable Green500 to identify your sustainability credentials and identify areas where our expertise might be best utilised. You'll be asked to provide quantitative data spanning a full year on your energy consumption, water consumption, waste generation, staff travel for (both commuting and business) and any business transportation. Your mentor will be able to guide you through the process and explain the data requirements further, help overcome any limitations and making assumptions where necessary. If you have already collected your data, the Carbon Mentor will be willing to enter this into the online tool on your behalf. You'll also be asked to provide information on some of the organisational management and processes within your organisation so that we can gain a clear understanding of how 'Green' your organisation currently is and where our expertise might best be placed. Again, your carbon Mentor will direct you to these surveys on the Green500 website and aid with any queries.

Undertake a Carbon Opportunities Assessment (COA)

Green500 will undertake a Carbon Opportunities Assessment (COA) as soon as you are ready to proceed. The COA involves an expert spending one day with your organisation to make recommendations on ways to further reduce your carbon footprint. It is best to undertake the COA as soon as possible after joining so that:

1. You have enough of a lead in time before the awards to maximise progress on your action plan and achieve a better score,
2. We have adequate time to schedule the delivery of the right expert skills for your organisation's needs, and
3. We can consider showcasing your progress in a case study or through other PR opportunities, maximising your PR benefits from the programme,

Develop an Action Plan

Based on your COA, your Carbon Mentor will work with you to develop an Action Plan, which includes setting a carbon reduction target. We will make sure that your carbon reduction target is challenging, but at the same time realistic and in-line with your business objectives. Your Carbon Mentor will work with you to achieve important senior level sign-off to the carbon reduction target. All this activity will ensure that you are on the right path to reap the benefits of the Green500 membership at the annual awards ceremony.

Want to Know More?

Please contact your organisation's Carbon Mentor or the Green500 helpline (0845 36 500 25) if you would like further clarification on this process. We look forward to working with you and helping your organisation reduce its carbon and achieve Green500 recognition.